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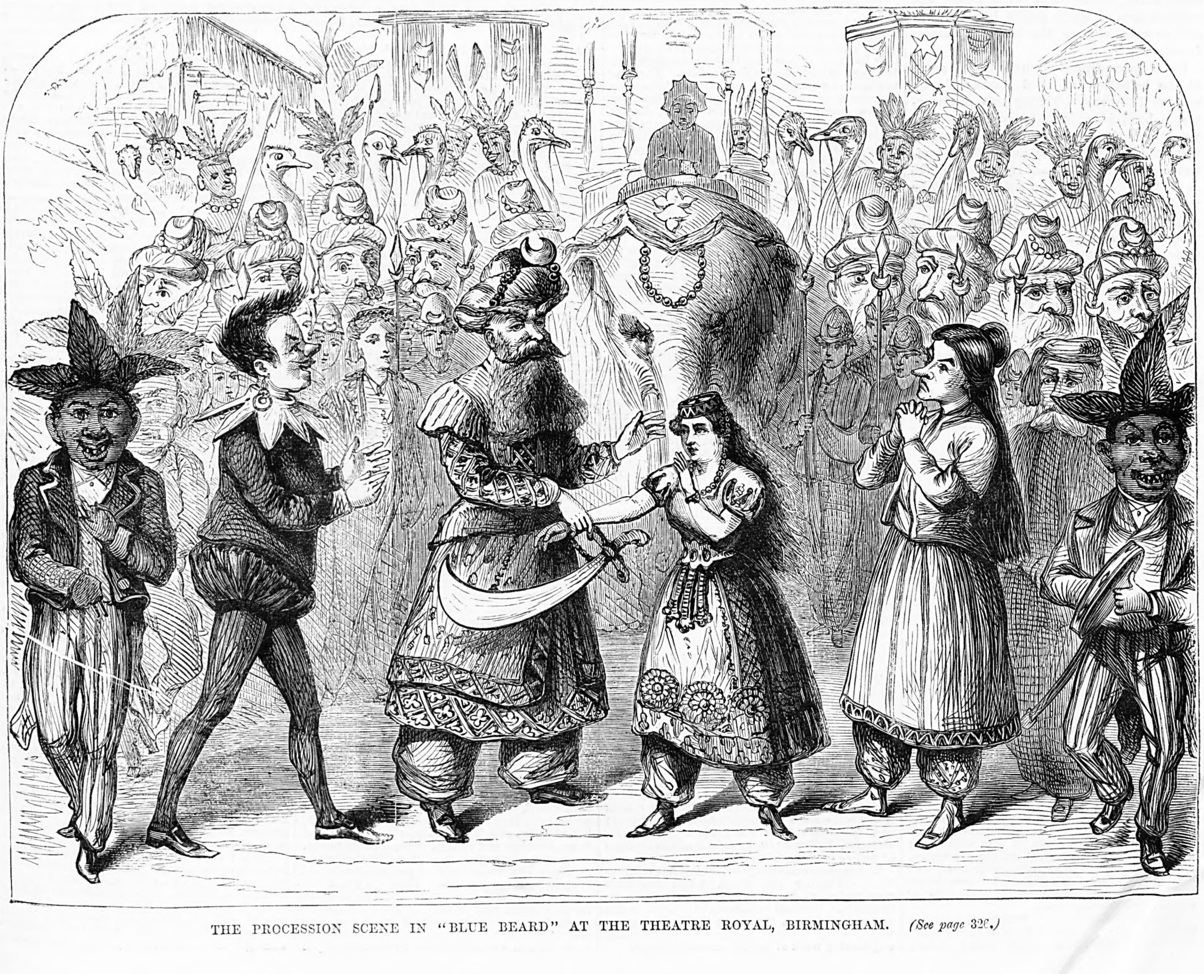
OUR CITIZEN ARMY.

The present position of the Volunteers is not as satisfactory as could be wished. What with Mr. Cardwell's proposed changes and the opposition with which these alterations are regarded by a majority of Volunteer officers, the Citizen Army, which has been trained at so great an expenditure of public and private money, appears to be approaching a transition state. Giving the Secretary for War all possible credit for the interest he has displayed in the matter, it must be allowed that his proposals are of too sweeping a character to find favour with the Volunteers as a body. Some there may be who profess themselves satisfied with Mr. Cardwell's propositions, but the larger portion will, we think, regard the proposed changes as being calculated to subvert the institution altogether.

Amongst the latter must be classed Lord Ranelagh, who has advanced the Volunteer movement by all the means at his disposal. At a meeting of Volunteer officers at his lordship's residence a few days ago, the proposed Governmental changes were taken into consideration and fully discussed. Lord Ranelagh's opinion was that the whole of the new regulations ought to be rejected—"that the whole thing from beginning to end was a mockery." One of Mr. Cardwell's propositions is that the Volunteers should be more closely connected with the regular army, that they should have a month's training with militia regiments, and that the country should be divided into districts and sub-districts. We think with Lord Ranelagh that it is "not desirable to draw the connection between the regulars and the Volunteers too close." The Volunteers form an Army of Civilians; they can only allot a certain number of hours weekly to their drill; they do not ask to be paid anything for their time and trouble; but they do ask not to be treated as regular soldiers when in point of fact they are otherwise regarded. Once let the idea prevail that the Volunteers are *paid soldiers*, and the *prestige* of the movement will disappear more rapidly than it was acquired. The great glory of the men is that they are Citizen-soldiers: they repudiate any other name. There is another reason why they should not be considered as aught else than semi-military men. Ever since the initiation of the force they have excited a certain amount of jealousy amongst the



THE PROCESSION SCENE IN "BLUE BEARD" AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM. *(See page 326.)*

regular branches of the service, though the Volunteers have never shown any desire to be placed on a level with the regular army.

The questions of the extra pay of sergeants and clothing formed important items in Lord Ranelagh's address. As to the first, he was against the proposal to cut off the extra pay; "he did not think they found they could get efficient men for the Government allowance. With the greatest economy, they were obliged to give extra pay of some kind." As to the clothing, "he doubted whether it was possible they could make it last longer than three years." It has been calculated that the uniforms will last five years; but those who know the amount of wear and tear caused by frequent drill will easily understand that the utmost care will not avail to protect the clothing for that period. On the subject of efficiency, Lord Ranelagh's argument was decidedly against reducing the total strength of the force.

"In a large army of 150,000 or 200,000 men, if they had 50,000 good, well-drilled men who might not be able to give all the necessary time to firing as required, were they to say that these 50,000 were no use? Surely, 50,000 well-drilled men formed a body they could not afford to lose. They were almost of as much consequence—many of them, perhaps, more so—than those who could shoot as the regulations required. Besides, if it were urgently wanted, these men would soon shoot very well. He could not understand this very short-sighted policy. It was doing away with the backbone of the force. (Hear, hear.) And there was a danger of which he would warn all volunteer officers. If they reduced the force by 50,000, would any man tell him that they would stop there? Would it not be in danger of being diminished still more? It was all very well to say that the whole force should be efficient; but would there not be a chance of breaking it up?"

If the Volunteer Army is to be of any real service as a preventive force, it must not be reduced below its present standard. There are none too many men enrolled; their numbers are constantly being lessened owing to the "set" which Government has occasionally made against them; and if we deduct 50,000 from the present enrolment there is no doubt that the way would be paved for a further reduction. This step once taken, would lead to a panic, the consequences of which might be disastrous and demoralizing to the whole Volunteer force.

Some interesting information was given at the gathering at Lord Ranelagh's by Colonel Thompson. Taking 1868 as an example, he said that in that year his regiment was composed of a thousand and odd enrolled men, and he received very nearly £1000 capitation grant. *Under the new regulations in* 1868 *he would only have had about* £450. In 1869 he would have been worse off. These facts alone show what would be the result of the proposed new regulations. We cordially approve the terms of Colonel Thompson's motion, that "the adoption of some of the proposals and alterations in the Volunteer force made at the interviews between certain commanding officers and the Secretary of State for War on the 21st and 23rd of December last, so far from increasing the efficiency and permanency of the force, would tend rather to effect a large and immediate reduction in its strength, and ultimately produce certain annihilation of many efficient battalions."

"BLUE BEARD."

In our number of January 1st appeared a notice of the production of "Blue Beard" at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. This week we give, on our front page, an illustration of the Procession Scene in the opening of the Pantomime. A more effective stage-picture can hardly be conceived. There are ostriches, with their black riders; Turkish slaves, with pretty faces and beautiful dresses; masks of all shapes; appropriate scenic surroundings; nigger minstrels, in the most *outré* and gorgeous apparel; and what looks so much like a real live elephant that Mr. Simpson must, we think, have made a surreptitious purchase from the authorities at the "Zoo."

The illustration represents the arrival of Bluebeard, and the meeting of that much-married personage with Fatima, his unwilling last spouse. Bluebeard's entry is heralded by the procession, ranged on both sides and at the rear of the stage, with the elephant in the centre, and the ostriches in a semicircular. The scene is received at every performance with immense applause, and Mr. Simpson must be congratulated upon having produced, without exception, the most effective and brilliant picture ever seen in Birmingham, or, indeed, in any provincial theatre. A word of praise to the stage-manager is due. He has fulfilled his share of the work most completely; the marshalling of the procession, and the device of apparently increasing the numbers until it is impossible to tell how many are on the stage, are excellent examples of efficient stage management.

The pantomime now works remarkably smoothly. It is supported by Miss Cicely Nott, Miss Clara Thorne, Miss Darling, Miss Grahame, Mr. Terriott, Mr. Williams, Mr. Wyke Moore, Mr. Forrest, and the clever Forrest boys. We are glad to see that the Theatre is crowded nightly with appreciative audiences; and we trust the courteous manager will be amply repaid for his enterprising and liberal catering.

"SPLENDIFEROUS."

Ordinarily one does not expect to see anything out of the common run of entertainments at a Music Hall. You generally get the same songs of the dreary "comic" order, with stage-scenery of the "daub" description. It is all the more gratifying, therefore, when the visitor to such places finds good singing and acting, excellent instrumental performances, and scenic effects altogether beyond what are usually found at Music Halls. Mr. Day, of the Birmingham Crystal Palace Concert Hall, has succeeded in establishing a place of amusement to which the above remarks will apply. In a large hall, which will seat upwards of 2,500 people on the floor and in the galleries, an entertainment is nightly given to large and orderly audiences; and, at holiday seasons, the proprietor provides for his patrons a bill of fare of Brobdingnagian proportions. From the Christmas piece produced on Boxing-night, under the fanciful and somewhat mystifying title "Splendiferous," we have selected for illustration, this week, with other Christmas entertainments, the transformation scene, which we give on page 332. It is called "The King of the Peacocks," and is a remarkably striking and beautiful scene. The artists' endeavour to paint a scene rivalling the many-hued bird, from which the picture takes its name, is remarkably successful. Graceful figures are discovered in various attitudes, but all in elegant *poses*; peacocks unfold their plumage only to reveal fairy forms in dazzling dresses; and the lime-light throws its marvellous rays on a transformation so glittering and resplendent as to make one wonder where all the colours come from. Rapturous applause greets each new elaboration of the scene, and Messrs. Edwin Day and John Watson appear at the wing to bow their acknowledgments of the deserved plaudits.

Two other scenes in the ballet merit mention, "A moonlit gorge in a rocky dell," and "The deepest dungeon beneath the castle moat." In the latter imps are seen at work, in certain auriferous regions, accompanying their labours with an anvil chorus. The ballet is supported by Miss Ruth Edwin (in the principal part), Mdlle. Nina Anato, Miss Agnes Walker, Mdlle. Letitia, Messrs. A. Francis, Sydney, Stevens, A. Baildon, J. Lupino, W. J. Pownall, Van de Valde, &c., the whole corps numbering 150 persons. The ballet is produced under the superintendence of Signor Guarrino and Mr. Edwin Day. The musical part of the entertainment is eminently satisfactory.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."

This is the title of the Pantomime at Drury-lane. It is written by E. L. Blanchard, as usual, and the scenery is by the veteran Beverley, who is by far the best artist of the day in his own line. The great secret of the beauty of his scenery may be found in the fact that his subjects are, to a great extent, studies from nature. The pantomime is supported by a fine array of talent, the characters in the opening being sustained by Misses Jessie Vokes, Victoria Vokes, Rosina Vokes, Kate Santley, Hudspeth, Hastings, and Harriet Coveney; Messrs. Fred. Vokes, Brittain Wright, W. Fawdon Vokes, and F. Moreland.

A wonderful monkey scene, and the smallest brass band in the world, are two of the leading attractions. The liveliest scene in the harlequinade is made up of incidents in the Silent Sewing Machine business. The Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company's house in Regent-street, London, occupies the stage, and the leading features of their business are shown on the pavement in front. The month's free trial, which the British public have learned to appreciate, is set forth as in actual business: noisy double-thread machines are exchanged for silent ones, just as is done every day by the disappointed victims of "lock" stitch; poor sewing women get machines to be paid for by monthly instalments. All of these modes of satisfying and accommodating the public, taken from the Willcox and Gibbs business as a model, are represented with infinite humour, to the great delight of everybody. Then Clown sews together two pieces of calico with a Double-thread Machine, and Pantaloon and Clown pull at the ends; the sewing gives way, just as "lock"-stitch sewing mostly goes, and they tumble backwards. They will never again trust double thread. Columbine sews the pieces together with the Willcox and Gibbs Silent Machine, and they pull again, but the seam holds fast.

Our engraving represents Columbine at the Silent Sewing Machine turning out some beautiful work to the astonishment and delight of Clown and Pantaloon, and the numerous visitors whom interest or curiosity has brought to the scene.

Taken altogether, the pantomime at Drury-lane is worthy of the place, and is rapturously received by the great audiences that assemble nightly in that ancient home of the drama.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

This week we give an illustration of one of the most interesting sights in connection with the opening of the Suez Canal, viz., the entrance of the fleet, headed by the *Eagle*, at Port Saïd, on the 17th of November. The *Eagle*, it will be remembered, was the vessel which conveyed the Empress of the French to the East to take part in the celebrations. The scene was a remarkably lively one, made up as it was of many vessels "dressed" with colours; Arabs in their picturesque costumes lining the banks; camels which had come a long distance across the desert; and spectators from all parts of the world, attracted thither by the grandeur of the schemes as well as by its novelty.

This was the crowning incident of the celebration. Whether the canal, which has been constructed at so large a cost will repay its originators, it would be difficult to say, but, under any circumstances, the name of M. de Lessep; will live as the constructor of the grandest engineering work of modern or ancient days.

LITERATURE.

The Child's Bible. Being a consecutive arrangement of the narratives and other portions of Holy Scripture in the words of the authorised version, with upwards of two hundred original illustrations. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have run the gauntlet of considerable criticism in producing what has been called an expurgated edition of the Holy Scriptures, but their Child's Bible does not come within the meaning of a garbled edition of the Book of Books, anymore than the numerous books of Bible stories and Bible histories which have teemed from the press for years in typographical torrents. The popularity of this work, and, more particularly, in the nursery and schoolroom, clearly pointed to a great want of a carefully-collected epitome of the Scripture narratives for the use of children, and we may fairly credit them with having supplied the want in the best possible manner. "While the Holy Bible is in the largest and truest sense a book for all, there are some parts of it which are as milk for babes, and some as strong meat for men." Courageously accepting this principle, the compiler of the Child's Bible has put into consecutive forms such portions of Holy Scripture as seem best adapted to the wants and capacities of childhood. It presents to the young reader, in their proper order, all the leading points of the Old and New Testament narratives, and it gives these records in the words of the authorised version. It is not a Bible condensed; nothing is altered; the language is nowhere tampered with or changed, but portions which children cannot possibly understand are omitted—portions which parents will be thankful not to be questioned upon by more precocious and intelligent young students of the Bible class. Where the sense occasionally seemed to require it, words and clauses have been inserted in brackets, sometimes as summaries of what has been omitted, and sometimes as connecting links; but these occur very rarely, and are only used where they seem to be absolutely necessary. The editor has done his work with great judgment and discretion, and the publishers have done theirs liberally and well. Beautifully printed in large clear type, the book is splendidly illustrated, opening with a frontispiece of Sir Joshua Reynolds's "Samuel Praying." We have borrowed from the publishers, as works specially interesting in themselves, two of the plates (see page 329,) which adorn the Child's Bible. The first is from the Book of Daniel. It represents that remarkable incident in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, which wrought so great a change in his kingdom. The artist has depicted that portion of the Bible narrative where the King looked into the fiery furnace and saw four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and spoke unto Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and blessed their God, and declared that there was no other God that could have so delivered his servants. Our second illustration represents Paul in prison, composing his speech to the Philippians.

The Swiss Family Robinson; or Adventures of a Shipwrecked Family on a Desolate Island. London: T. Nelson and Sons, Paternoster Row.

Archbishop Whately in one of his learned logical papers proved to demonstration that it was impossible Robinson Crusoe's rice could grow. The archbishop showed that the grain was winnowed and dressed and unfit for seed. However diligently Robinson Crusoe might have played the part of the husbandman, the rice which he had received from the shipwreck could not possibly yield him any profit. On all true lovers of Defoe's wonderful book this matter-of-fact essay of the archbishop's would have no effect, despite his logic. We say the rice *did* grow—Robinson Crusoe had a rice harvest, and all his story is true. Defoe in later years has an imitator in Joachim Heinrich Kampe, tutor to Baron Humboldt, who is the author of the Swiss Family Robinson. As a rule, we object to imitations of all kinds, but the Swiss Family Robinson has made its own mark in spite of the great original. Miss Young in *Macmillan's Magazine* played the part of Archbishop Whately of the *Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle*. "This has been one of the greatest favourites until Capt. Marryat's criticisms cruelly exposed its absurdities. To be sure, when we come to think of it, nobody but a German could have thought it practicable to land a whole family in a row of washing tubs nailed together like planks, &c." The *Spectator* replies in the right spirit—bother Marryat's nautical knowledge; they *did* sail in washing tubs, train zebras, &c. We never met a child whom this story did not fascinate, and if some publishers would have it translated in all its tediousness and fulness, we believe it would have a success as large as that of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Here, before us, is the book in all its tedious fulness—a new and unabridged edition, translated from the French of Charles Nodier, who writes a clever introduction. The work is too well known generally to demand criticism at our hands. We think, with the *Spectator*, that the story is improved by a full and complete translation. It is a masterpiece of fiction, strengthened by fact. It is full of human and personal interest. It is a father, mother, and family, which excite our interest and sympathy. We are fain to admit that here and there there is a connection of interests and sympathies coming out of similar incidents in Robinson Crusoe. The Swiss Family Robinson has here and there special attractions; but it is, perhaps, hardly fair to contrast the two books. The Swiss Family Robinson will stand upon its own merits. The edition before us is beautifully illustrated with nearly 300 effective and appropriate woodcuts.

Old Paths of Honour and Dishonour: A Story of the Beatitudes. London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.

Amongst the many gift-books that have lately been issued, one of the most attractive is the work before us. It is a child's book of a religious cast, and the plan of it is this: There is a Frank and Susy (brother and sister), who, strange to say, are continually trying to solve grave theological questions that do not interest real children in real life, however precocious. Thus we think the author has made a mistake—children's books should contain matter likely to interest children. A child, in a healthy state of mind, dreaming over fairy tales will scarcely look kindly upon a book wherein a certain Master Frank is bent upon fathoming the meaning of Holy Writ, and who occasionally entertains topics profound enough to baffle the sagacity of papa. But to resume—when they are a little puzzled they go to papa begging of him to unravel the difficult points. Papa, "full of wise saws and modern instances," delivers grave speeches, which send his wondrous children into raptures of admiration and enthusiasm. Master Frank's first question in soliloquy is, "What does poor in spirit mean?" He goes to papa for explanation. Susy is also most anxious to know. "I will try," papa replies to the question, "but instead of explaining it in a few words I shall pick out one or two people of whom we read in the Bible, who seem to belong to that class, and afterwards I shall expect you to find me some who evidently did not belong to it." "*Oh, that will be nice!*" Frank cried, "and Susy you must help me." Then we arrive at a sublime page, where the children seem to find that there is great credit in being miserable. The sister reminds her brother that—

> "'The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
> Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown.'"

Chapter V. tells us of a solemn talk in the study between papa and the children, the subject being "Why people who are made to mourn first and then comforted, are better off than those who never mourn at all," This is the dreary tone of the whole book. We do not think this a pleasant way of dealing out religious instruction to the young. Something is wanted that children will take to of their own free will, and not anything that must be thrust down their throats on the penalty of going to bed without their supper. The work is illustrated with coloured Biblical designs, mostly copied or adapted from designs by Rembrandt, Guercino, Juanes, Overbeck, Blake, and other masters, forming the most entertaining part of the book. Indeed, these are in themselves worth all the money at which the work is published.

How do I Know? Being Walks and Talks with Uncle Merton. By the author of "What Makes Me Grow?" London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.

Whatever the demand for children's books may be, the supply seems daily to be increasing. Here is another one, a good one too—well written, and combining instructive matter with amusing tales. Uncle Merton's stories are admirably illustrated, and altogether this volume will be a very acceptable one to children.

Vestina's Martyrdom: A Story of the Catacombs. By Emma Raymond Pitman. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

This is a tale of Rome, when that "eternal city" was mistress of the world. Rome as it was in the days of the Pantheon and Forum—in the days of Paul, Timothy, Aristarchus, Phebe, and the great Nero, known only for his cruelty to the Christians. The story opens with "a calm summer day in the year A.D. 63." It was a triumphal day in Rome; "Vespasian and Titus were defeating the beleagured Jews, and Nero had ordered rejoicing, because of the success that had attended their arms." The captives are thrown to the mercy of lions in the spacious amphitheatre, to the unbounded gratification of the Emperor and Rome's proud citizens. Amongst the throng were two young Greek students, by name, Alexander and Epipodious, scions of noble houses in Athens. They had entered Rome that day and had become spectators of the rejoicings. They could not endure the sight at the Amphitheatre and left to find out Publius, the senator, to whom they bore letters of introduction. Whilst they are conversing with Publius, his wife enters, accompanied by Vestina, her daughter (the heroine of the story), and Pontius her son. The students are made right welcome. Vestina, together with her mother and brother, favours the Christian religion, known as the "new heresy." Even to sympathise with a Christian was, in those days, a most dangerous thing. Presently we are introduced to a Fulvius—a wealthy, dissipated young noble, and a would-be suitor for the hand of Vestina. Although he had been rejected, it incensed him rather than cooled his attachment for her. He comes to the knowledge that she is attached to Christianity, and, by following up the clue he has obtained, he discovers that she publicly identified herself with the Christians. He wields this knowledge over her as an instrument of terror. He causes one of her friends to be imprisoned for her sympathy with the Christians. Then the wily Fulvius goes to Vestina and tells her that she can save her friend, if she will, on one condition. "What is it?" asks Vestina. "*That you will accept me as your suitor*," he replies. The cunning wooer is again rejected, the friend is put to death, and the task of revenge commences at once. Taking advantage of the continued bitter feeling against the Christians, which increased from day to day, Fulvius obtains a warrant for the apprehension of Vestina, her mother and brother. He goes in the dead of the night, with some of the Emperor's soldiers, to the house of Publius. Perpetua and Pontious are seized, but Vestina, the one most sought for was not to be found. Pontious, glad that at least his sister is beyond the reach of her cruel enemy, tells him that Vestina has married with Epipodious, and gone to Athens. This rouses the anger of Fulvius, and he drags the captives with increased rage, to be thrown into dungeons for the offence of being Christians. Publius saw them several times in their cell, and used every persuasion to entice them to give up their faith, for he had a promise from the Emperor, that they should be pardoned if they would do so. They remained true, and both suffered death. Vestina, with her husband, returned to hear the sad end of her mother and brother, but there was no longer shelter for them in the house of Publius, for the enemy was on their track. With many others they took refuge in the catacombs; but even in this place of retirement they were found by the envious Fulvius, who held warrants against them. The husband, Epipodious, was taken first to the arena, and torn to pieces by a hungry lion in the eyes of thousands of pitiless citizens, including the old enemy Fulvius. The news of his death was carried to Vestina, and drove her almost frantic. When she had been in the dungeon several days she died. The guard went to her cell at daybreak, to take her some slight nourishment, "he drew back the huge bolt. What a fearful sight met his eyes! On the ground, still and white, and partially unrobed, lay Vestina, 'sleeping the sleep that knows no waking.' By her side, wrapped in its mother's *stola*, or outer robe, was a feeble puny infant, wailing its low feeble wail, as if pining for maternal attention; but the heart that was clung to it as her own life was far away, beyond the blue ether, doubtless watching with a mother's undying love the welfare of her orphaned little one." The child was taken to its grandfather Publius, who became a Christian, and sought a new home, where he could rest in safety. This, we think, is a fair outline of the troubles of Vestina. It is a fine story, and told with all the skill of an accomplished historian. The writer has a thorough knowledge of the manners and customs of ancient Rome, and her book is not only a wholesome one and full of interest, but it abounds with sound instruction concerning the early Christians.

Purpose and Passion. Being "Pygmalion" and other Poems. By Keningale Robert Cook, B.A. London: Virtue & Co.; New York: Virtue & Yorston.

The opening page informs us that "to true friends, known and unknown, this prentice-work is inscribed." The title, "Purpose and Passion"—rather a vague one—is taken, the author tells us, from a paragraph in Edgar Poe's preface to his poems, and whilst it applies to the work as a whole has special reference to the principal piece in the collection—Pygmalion. The work under notice—which, by the bye, is a gem of neatness both as regards the printing and binding—is made up of about fifty poetic productions, including a drama ("Essex and the Ring"), a Greek love song from Sappho, and a Roman love song from the Authology, all of which are clothed in most classical language. Judged as a work of art Pygmalion may perhaps claim priority, but for pleasant idea we prefer Lura. Daphne is written in the author's simplest style, and here and there some of the more graceful couplets bring to mind the smooth lines of Keats' "Endymion." We mostly find in young aspirants a tendency to indite burning lines to the goddess of liberty, in spite of all that has been already written on that score. Mr. Cook has fallen in with the common lot, but only to the extent of a few verses. The song of the Naiad Aieen is a sparkling lay, crammed with happy thought and inspiration. The reader on glancing at the first few lines may at once think of Ariel in the "Tempest," which possibly suggested the poem we speak of. No plagiarism is implied; on the contrary, the song of the Naiad Aieen is strictly original, and is one of the cleverest compositions in the whole 300 pages. Indeed, we may truly say there are positive marks of individuality in every piece the covers contain. "Plot and Passion" from beginning to end is full of beautiful imaginery, and is well worthy of an honourable position amongst the best books of modern poetry.

"The Mother's Recompense." By Grace Aguilar. London: Groombridge and Sons.

This is a posthumous production, and a sequel to "Home Influence," a work which met with universal praise. Both stories were written more than thirty years ago, before the author had arrived at the age of womanhood. The book before us, illustrated by Helen J. A. Miles, has reached its twenty-first edition, and its contents have been too often set forth to need recapitulation at our hands.

The Birmingham Red Book.—Messrs. Hall and English have recently issued their "Red Book" for 1870. Besides containing a great deal of information acceptable to general readers, the "Red Book" is a local *vade mecum*. It is well arranged, capitally printed, and costs only sixpence, which is money well spent in its purchase.

NEW MUSIC.

The Railway Whistle Galop. By G. Richardson. London: Duff and Stewart.

Mr. Richardson, musical director of the Globe Theatre, has succeeded in composing a very attractive galop that deserves to be well received. It is easy to play and simple throughout. The title page is adorned with a lithographic drawing, which forms an attractive part of this production. Mr. Richardson has written several popular pieces, and the one before us we think may be reckoned amongst his best.

Sir Simon Simple Quadrille. By G. Richardson. London: Duff and Stewart.

This is a capital set of quadrilles on popular airs by the composer of the Railway Whistle Galop, who displays great taste and skill in setting dance music. It is decidedly "simple," and will no doubt give general satisfaction. The title page illustration is a scene from "Sir Simon Simple," first produced at Birmingham and which is now having a long run at the Globe Theatre.

Forbes' Valse. By George Forbes. London: Duff and Stewart.

This is a somewhat difficult valse running in four flats and four sharps alternately, which will satisfy many of the minor musicians that they may leave it alone with advantage. It is smartly written and original, and will find favour in the ball-room. The piece is dedicated to Madlle. Madeline Schiller. On the whole it is a clever performance, and worthy the reputation of the composer.

I Dream of Thy Sweet Smile. Written by Dexter Smith: composed by J. R. Thomas. London: Duff and Stewart.

Anything emanating from Mr. Thomas may be relied upon as being worth the hearing. I Dream of Thy Sweet Smile is a charming little production (two verses in E). It is within easy compass and by no means difficult to sing. There is small attraction in the words, but nevertheless they are good "singing" words, which is the great object, and often has more effect than the best poetry.

Come Home my Sailor Boy. Poetry by Jean Ingelow: composed by W. C. Levy.

Come Home my Sailor Boy is far above the run of ordinary modern songs, especially as regards the poetry, which we like better than the music. The composer, however, evinces a taste for melody, and we may expect something better from him in the future.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The American Minister's house, 17, Arlington-street, London, has been robbed of £1,000 worth of jewellery.

A second Protestant church is about to be erected at Munich, the centre and stronghold of Roman Catholicism in Germany.

It is likely that Lord Napier of Magdala will, in the event of certain changes, be called to an important post at the Council Board of the India Office.

Several silver and copper coins—the former the size of a shilling, the latter a little larger than a penny—were dug up last week within the walls of ancient Verulam (St. Alban's).

Most of the Paris papers express great satisfaction at the removal of Baron Haussmann, which event they consider as a striking evidence of the inauguration of Parliamentary Government. The *Liberté*, however, blames the measure.

There was a large gathering of Devonshire Liberals at Barnstable on Thursday to present a testimonial to Mr. E. C. Drewe for his services to the Liberal cause. Sir John Coleridge was amongst the guests.

The great International Exhibition of Home and Foreign Products of Art and Industry, in the city of Cordova, Argentine Republic, is to commence on October 15th. All kinds of manufactures, with paintings and other works of art, are invited.

The Rush into Bankruptcy.—Referring to the unaparalleled number of bankruptcies in Tuesday week's *London Gazette*. "An Official" writes to say that "there were presented at the Trust Deed Office for registratian on Thursday last 194 deeds, and on Friday, 331; the average number up to the 1st of December last being 16 deeds per day.

The Œcumenical Council.—The second public sitting of the council, on Thursday, was opened with less ceremony than before. After mass had been celebrated, every Prelate presented to the Pope a written profession of the Catholic faith, in accordance with the formula laid down by Pope Pius IV. The health of his Holiness continues excellent. At the congregation on Monday seven Fathers spoke. The points for discussion in reference to ecclesiastical discipline were communicated to the congregation.

A Child Attempting Suicide.—A girl between eleven and twelve years old jumped off London-bridge on Saturday. A gentleman made an effort to prevent her, but he had not time to catch her dress. Two boats at once put off. Her dress buoyed her up, and the tide drifted her through the arch several yards beyond the bridge. She was still afloat when the boatmen pulled up and rescued her.

Proposed Transfer of British Columbria to Amerrica.—The startling news is telegraphed from Washington that on Tuesday a resolution was introduced in the Senate, and referred to the Committee on Foreign relations, instructing the Secretary of State to enquire into the expediency of proposing the transfer of British Columbria to the United States, as a condition of a treaty for the settlement of the differences between America and Great Britain. The preamble states that the inhabitants of British Columbria desire such a transfer.

A New Year's Custom.—At Basingstoke, Hants, they have an old custom of singing the Hundredth Psalm on the church tower on the last night of the year. On Friday week, at midnight, although it rained, fifty persons assembled, the Vicar being amongst them. The origin of the custom, says a local paper, is obscure, but it is probably in some way connected with the custom which prevails at Magdalen College, Oxford (in whom the patronage of the living of Basingstoke is vested), of singing from the Magdalen tower at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 1st of May.

Reported Annexation of St. Domingo to the United States.—Numerous Washington correspondents of New York journals state that the President will shortly send to the Senate a secret message, communicating a treaty negotiated between President Baez and United States' Commissioner Perry, for the annexation of San Domingo to the United States as a territory. According to this intelligence, the United States undertake to pay the debts of San Domingo, receiving public lands at a joint appraisement for all payments exceeding 1,500,000 dollars. The treaty, it is added, is subject to a ratification by the United States' Senate, and by a majority of the voters in San Domingo.

A Sailor Killed on the Great Western Railway.—On Saturday afternoon a sailor was seen standing on the platform of the Basingstoke branch railway, at Reading station. Suddenly the poor fellow was seen to run across the rails; in an instant he was caught and knocked down by the express train, and driven along by the iron guards in front of the engine-wheels, and at a distance he was forced on a side of rails. The body was not mutilated, but there was a severe cut on the forehead, which, no doubt, caused immediate death. In the course of the evening it was ascertained that the sailor had undergone a term of imprisonment in Reading gaol, and was discharged in the morning. It is presumed that he committed suicide.

The Will of the late Baroness Windsor was proved in London, on the 29th ult., by her second son, Colonel the Hon. George Herbert Windsor Clive (Coldstream Guards), and the Hon. Robert Charles Herbert, of Orleton, Salop, the joint acting executors: and to each her ladyship leaves a legacy of £100. The personalty was sworn under £140,000. The will is dated July 12, 1860, and her ladyship died November 9 last at St. Leonards-on-Sea, aged 72. Her ladyship married, in 1819, the Hon. Robert Henry Clive, a younger son of Edward, first Earl of Powys, who died in 1854, leaving issue three sons and three daughters. Her ladyship bequeaths to her son, the Hon. George Herbert, the estate of Stone House, Salop, and all the property that she might be entitled to of the first Baron Clive and that of her brother, Other Archer, sixth Earl of Plymouth, and her shares in the Penarth Harbour Dock Company, together with a legacy of £2,000. The residue of her personal estate her ladyship leaves between her daughters, Mary Windsor Clive and Victoria Alexandra Clive (for whom her Majesty was sponsor).

Lord Claud Hamilton is to retain his seat for Lynn; the Liberals will not petition.

The Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning. The manager was burnt to death.

The death is announced of Mr. John Tidd Pratt, the well-known Registrar of Friendly Societies, who died on Sunday in his 72nd year.

Mr. R. Marshall, a grease manufacturer and commission agent, threw himself off the high-level bridge at Newcastle on Thursday. He fell into the Tyne, about 90 feet; several of his ribs were broken, and he has since died.

Death of Sir De Lacy Evans.—General Sir De Lacy Evans died on Sunday, at the age of 82, of bronchitis. To a very great extent he was a self-made man. His bravery at the battle of the Alma was conspicuous.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation in the North of England Iron trade, held at South Stockton on Monday, Mr. Thomas Hughes. M.P., was decided upon as arbitrator in the wages question.

Suicide of a Young Lady.—A young lady named Martha Monkhouse, aged 20, committed suicide at Hampstead, on Sunday night. She left her home to go to church at half-past six o'clock. At nine o'clock a letter was discovered, which stated that her body would be found in the Viaduct Pond, East Park, Hampstead. Two policemen went to the spot indicated, and there they found an umbrella, Church Service, and tippet, which were identified as the young lady's property. The pond was then dragged, and the body of the young woman was discovered.

The National Education League.—The first monthly paper issued by this League reports progress. It is stated *inter alia*, that on the 6th of November there had been ten branches formed, and that 40 were in progress of arrangement; on the 1st of December the branches formed had risen to 42, while 64 others were in course of formation. On the 1st of this month there had been 62 branches formed and at work, and 71 in course of formation. It is further stated that in the months of November and December 36 public meetings were held, and at all of them resolutions passed in favour of the principles of the League. The total number of the members enrolled up to New Year's-day approached 9,000; of these more than 50 are members of the House of Commons and nearly 500 are ministers of religion. On the 31st of December the total subscriptions (independent of branch subscriptions for local purposes) were £46,881, showing an increase of £13,531 as compared with the return of the previous month. There are 17 subscribers of £1,000 each, 13 of £500 each, 20 of amounts between £400 and £100, and 36 of £100 each.

Execution of the Wigan Murderer.—A Warning from the Condemned Cell.—John Gregson, aged 27, a collier, who was found guilty of the murder of his wife, at Wood's Yard, Wigan, last October, was executed inside the walls of Kirkdale Gaol, on Monday morning. He was visited by his friends on Friday last. On stepping under the beam, his legs were strapped, and as the white cap was drawn over his face, he murmured, "Lord Jesus, receive my soul." The bolt was drawn at two minutes past eight, and the unfortunate man died without any apparent struggle. His last communication to the chaplain was:—"Tell my mother that she must not repent for me, for I have met with Jesus, my Saviour, and I am happy." The chaplain, at Gregson's request, wrote the following memorandum:—

"Kirkdale County Prison.

"John Gregson desires me to ask all the preachers of the Gospel in Wigan, on Sunday, 16th January, to warn their hearers, especially colliers, against the sin of drunkenness, as he wishes no one to come to the same kind of death as he has suffered, as it is through Sunday drinking that he has been brought to this end. He earnestly wishes colliers to go every Sunday to a place of worship."

The Court.—The Queen remains at Osborne, where her Majesty has been visited by the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, who had the honour of dining with her Majesty on Sunday.—The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princes Albert Victor and George, and the Princesses Louise, Victoria Alexandria, and Maud are at Gunton Hall, Norfolk.—The Prince of Wales has consented to preside at the seventy-second anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, to be held next March.—The Duchess of Argyle, being compelled, by illness, to resign the office of Mistress of the Robes in the Royal Household, the Duchess of Sutherland has been appointed to the vacancy. Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide was safely delivered of a Prince at 11 o'clock on Sunday evening. Her Royal Highness and the infant Prince are doing perfectly well.—It is in contemplation to invite the Prince and Princess of Wales to Belfast on Easter Monday, when it is proposed to unveil the statue of the late Prince Consort at the Albert Memorial, and to lay the foundation of the "Working Men's Institute," or "People's Club and Temperance Hall."

Parcels Conveyance Company.—The business of parcel carrying in London and its suburbs is no doubt capable of considerable development. This is more especially the case with regard to the class of persons who attend business in the city of London, and live with their families a short distance from it. These people would no doubt avail themselves very largely of extended facilities for conveying parcels throughout the metropolis and its outskirts. The Parcel Conveyance Company (limited), a paragraph of whose prospectus appears in another column, is formed to supply the accommodation needed. It will offer frequent and rapid collection and delivery at low rates, and as the public will no doubt take up largely the small shares, the company will be compelled to treat the interests of the public as their own. If this idea is thoroughly carried out, something of the co-operative principle will be established in the management, proprietary of the public, and the results must be a large increase in the convenience of the latter. The shares have been fixed at a low rate, with the view of enabling senders and receivers of parcels to become shareholders, and so control the action of the company; whilst persons desirous to become agents have also the opportunity of taking shares, and shareholders will have the preference of these appointments. The Company, well managed, will be a public benefit, and the association promises commercially to be very profitable.

The Earl of Derby has been suffering from a severe cold, confining his lordship to his house.

"The Great Convent Scandal Case."—The further hearing of the arguments for a new trial is postponed to next term.

The Reverend James Fraser, M.A., Rector of Ufton Nervet, has been selected by the Prime Minister to succeed the late Dr. Prince Lee in the bishopric of Manchester.

A legal contemporary understands that the Benchers of the Middle Temple have been appealed to with reference to the conduct of one of the members of the inn in connection with the Overend and Gurney prosecution. Dr. Thom has presented a petition in which, however, he desires that the mildest possible form of punishment may be inflicted, due regard being paid to the nature of the complaint which he prefers.

A Paris Tragedy: Arrest of Prince Bonaparte.—Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte is in custody on a charge of shooting M. Victor Noire, late one of the staff of Rochefort's new paper the *Marseillaise*. The accounts of the tragic occurence differ. A telegram in the *Standard* says: On Saturday, a brutally insulting article against Prince Bonaparte appeared in the *Marseillaise* from the pen of Victor Noir. He challenged Rochefort. Victor Noir called on him on Monday, and explained that he, not Rochefort, was the responsible party, and on the Prince declining to fight, threatened to assault him. The Prince replied that if he did he would shoot him. Victor Noir proceeded to carry out his threat, whereupon the Prince took up a pistol and shot him dead. Prince Pierre Bonaparte was a member of the Republican Assembly in 1848, and has lived in retirement ever since. The *Marseillaise* says Prince Bonaparte, without any provocation, struck M. Noir in the face with his left hand, then shot M. Noir, and next fired at M. Fonvielle, shooting him through his paletot. The *Official Journal* publishes a decree convoking the Chamber of Investigation of the High Court of Justice to undertake the judicial inquiry into the act of homicide imputed to Prince Pierre Bonaparte. The *Official Journal* also confirms that M. Ollivier had ordered the arrest of the Prince, but the Prince had previously given himself up to the Commissary of Police at Auteuil. His Highness was immediately taken to the Conciergerie. The *Marseillaise* came out in mourning on Tuesday, and contained a violent article, describing the Bonapartes as murderers and cut-throats, "who, not satisfied with mowing down the Republicans with grape in the streets, entice them into filthy snares to kill them within four walls." Rochefort has been received with cries of "Vive Rochefort!" on the Boulevards. M. Noir was buried on Wednesday at Veuilly. There was an immense crowd, whom Rochefort harangued. There was no disturbance; no police nor military were to be seen. Wednesday's issue of the *Marseillaise* was seized.

THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN.

Paul Konewka, a German artist, has introduced a new feature in wood illustrations. The *Illustrated London News* gave an example of his novel work a few months ago. We this week give another on a much larger scale, being a graceful and most characteristic design for Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man." The picture tells its own story and is an exquisite work of art. It is the old black paper portrait-cutting idealised and perfected. To get so much character out of solid blocks like these is an artistic triumph.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

On page 327 we give an illustration of the banquet in aid of the funds of the above institution at the Exchange Assembly Room, New-street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, the 28th ult., T. Prime, Esq., Mayor of Birmingham, presiding. The large room was beautifully decorated with valuable paintings lent for the occasion by Messrs. Everard, and Mr. Vertegans had so adorned the apartment with shrubs and flowers as to almost change its identity. Messrs. Wickham and Pickmere's arrangements, especially as regarded the *cuisine*, were admirable in all respects. To the excellent speeches by Mr. George Dawson and other gentlemen we referred in a previous number; and it is only necessary now to say that the benevolent institution on behalf of which the banquet was given is in a deservedly flourishing condition, and that its claims were successfully advocated by the various speakers. The Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution has already done a great and good work; and, under its present admirable direction, we trust its scope of usefuldess will be enlarged year after year.

"CASTING A LARGE ROLL."

To the Editor of the Illustrated Midland News.

Dear Sir,—In your paper of last week there appears a very interesting account and illustration of the casting of the large roll at Messrs. J. and A. Thompson's, Pothouse Bridge Foundry, Bilston, which no doubt might convey an erroneous impression on the minds of some of your readers. To many persons, the idea might be conveyed by that article that the Roll cast by Messrs. Thompson is the largest ever made, whereas, it is well known in and around Bilston, that Messrs. Claridge, North, & Co., Phœnix Foundry, Bilston, have recently cast, and are about to deliver, a large Armour Plate Roll, which they justly style "The largest Roll in the World," of the following dimensions: 36*in. diameter*, 15*ft.* 6*in. long, and weighing* 18 *tons*. This one is a duplicate of a pair of the same dimensions cast by Messrs. Claridge, North, and Co., in 1868, to be kept in stock for fear of accident to the pair now at work. They are, I am told, capable of rolling armour plates 42*ft. long*, 9*ft. wide*, 15*in. thick, and weighing* 90 *tons each*. I had the pleasure of seeing the casting of all three of the rolls, which was very interesting. About 22 tons of metal were melted in 3 air furnaces, and the whole operation was strikingly successful. In about a week the roll was lifted from the casting pit, and is now on the lathe in the roll turning shop. A full-sized model was exhibited in the Wolverhampton Exhibition of 1869. I may add that these monster rolls were made for Sir John Brown and Co., Sheffield. I do not write this as an interested party, but I really think every one should pay more attention to the motto—

"Honour to whom honour is due."

Bilston, January 12th, 1870.

MR. DICKENS AT BIRMINGHAM.

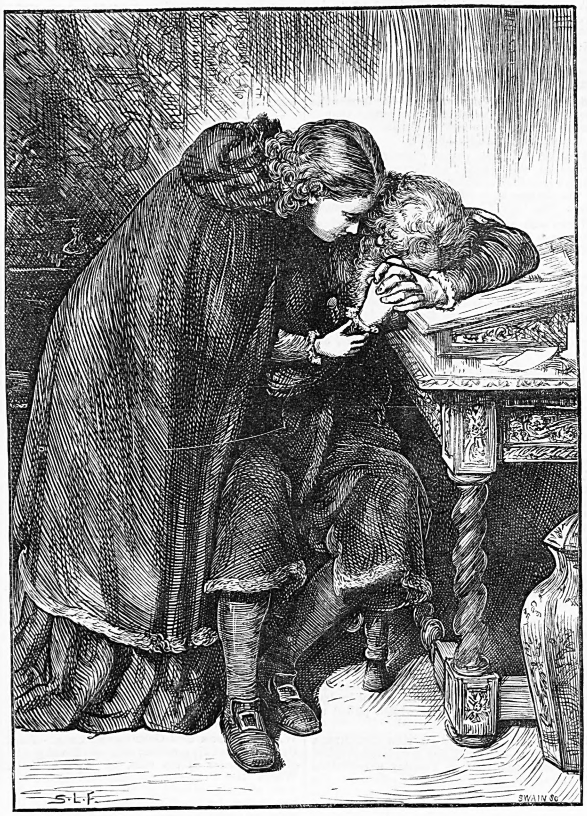
On Thursday evening, the 6th inst., Mr. Charles Dickens presided at the distribution of prizes and certificates to the students of the Birmingham and Midland Institute. A large and brilliant audience assembled to greet Mr. Dickens, who, in commencing the proceedings, said:

We have now to bestow the rewards which have been brilliantly won by the most successful competitors in the society's lists. I say the most successful, because to-night we should particularly observe, I think, that there is success in all honest endeavour, and that there is some victory gained in every gallant struggle that is made. To strive at all involves a victory achieved over sloth, inertness, and indifference, and competition for these prizes involves besides, in the vast majority of cases, competition with, and mastery asserted over, circumstances adverse to the effort made; therefore, every losing competitor among my hearers may be certain that he has still won much, very much, and that he can well afford to swell the triumph of the rival who has opposed him in the race. I have applied the word rewards to these prizes, and I do so, not because they represent any great intrinsic worth in silver or gold, but precisely because they do not. They represent what is above all price; what can be stated in no arithmetical figures, and what is one of the great needs of the human soul—encouraging sympathy. They are an assurance to every student present or to come in your institution that he does not work either neglected or unfriended, and that he is watched, felt for, stimulated, and appreciated—such an assurance conveyed in the presence of this large assembly, and striking to the breast of the recipient that thrill which is inseparable from any great united utterance. A feeling—as a reward—to my thinking as purely worthy of the labour as the labour itself is worthy of the reward, and by a sensitive spirit can never be forgotten.

In distributing the prizes Mr. Dickens shook each student warmly by the hand, accompanying each presentation by some appropriate and genial remark. He warmly complimented a young man named Caswell, who obtained the chymical prize, the Evans' prize of £20, and in consideration of which (Mr. Dickens said) this successful student has obtained an appointment as analytical chemist at Messrs. Chance's famous works. In presenting a certificate to a young lady named "Winkle," Mr. Dickens announced, amid shouts of laughter, that he had recommended the fair student to "change her name." After the distribution of the prizes Mr. Dickens said:—

The prizes are now all distributed, and I have discharged myself of the delightful task you have entrusted to me; and if the recipients of these prizes and certificates who have come upon this platform have had the genuine pleasure in receiving their acknowledgments from my hands that I have had in placing them in theirs, they are in a true Christian temper to-night. (Applause.) I have the painful sense upon me, that it is reserved for some one else to enjoy this great satisfaction of mind next time. It would be useless for the few short moments longer to disguise the fact that I happen to have drawn King this Twelfth Night, but that another Sovereign will very soon sit upon my inconstant throne. To-night I abdicate, or, what is much the same thing in the modern annals of Royalty—I am politely dethroned. (Laughter.) This melancholy reflection, ladies and gentlemen, brings me to a very small point, personal to myself, upon which I will beg your permission to say a closing word. When I was here last time I made, in reference to some remarks of your respected member, Mr. Dixon, a short confession of my political faith—(applause)—or, perhaps, I should better say, want of faith. (Laughter.) It imported that I have very little confidence in the people who govern us—please to observe "people" there with a small "p"—(laughter)—but that I have very great confidence in the people whom they govern—please to observe there "people" with a large "P." (Renewed laughter.) This was shortly, elliptically stated, and was, with no evil intention, I am absolutely sure, in some quarters inversely explained. Perhaps, as the inventor of a certain extravagant fiction, but one I do see rather frequently quoted as if there were grains of truth at the bottom of it—a fiction called "The Circumlocution Office"—(laughter)—and, perhaps, also as the writer of an idle book or two, whose public opinions are not obscurely stated—perhaps, in these capacities I do not sufficiently bear in mind Hamlet's caution, to speak by the card lest equivocation should undo me. (Laughter and applause.) Anyhow, I complain of nobody; but simply in order that there may be no more mistake as to what I *did* mean, and as to what I *do* mean, I will restate my meaning. And I will do so in the words of a great thinker, a great writer, and a great scholar—whose life, unfortunately for mankind, was cut short—in his "History of Civilisation in England." "They may talk as they will about the reforms which Government has introduced, and the improvements to be expected from legislation; but whoever will take a wider and more commanding view of human affairs will soon discover that such hopes are chimerical. They will learn that lawgivers are nearly always the obstructors of society instead of its helpers, and that in the extremely few cases in which their measures have turned out well, their success has been owing to the fact that, contrary to their usual custom, they have implicitly obeyed the spirit of their time, and have been, as they always should be, the mere servants of the people, to whose wish they are bound to give a public and legal sanction." (Loud applause.)

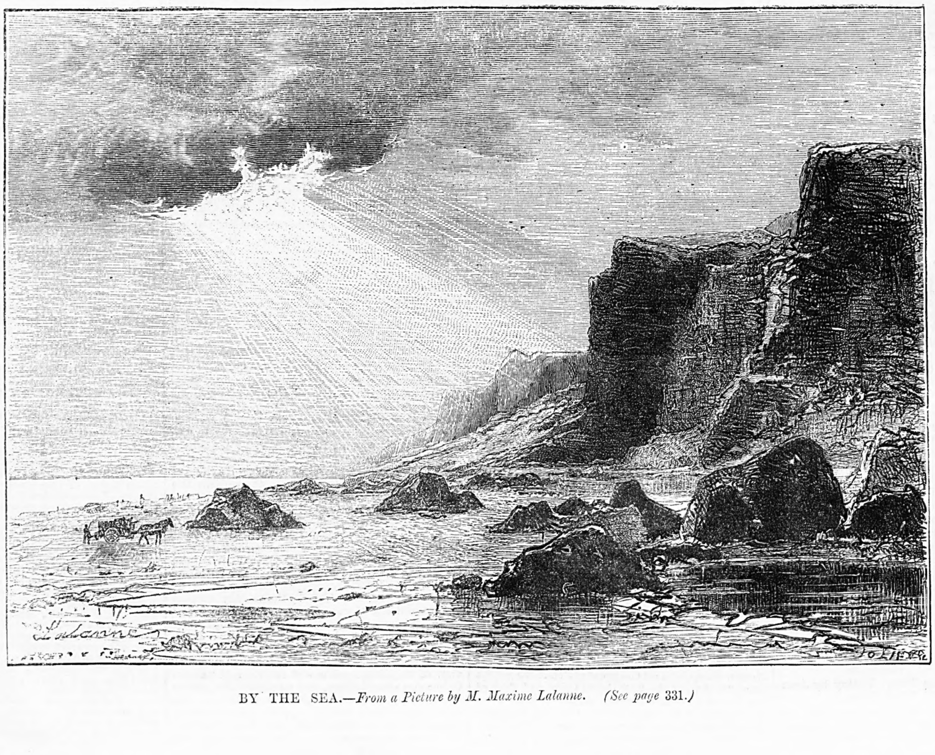
A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dickens by acclamation on the motion of Mr. Gausby, the senior vice-president, and Mr. Dickens bade his audience "officially" farewell.



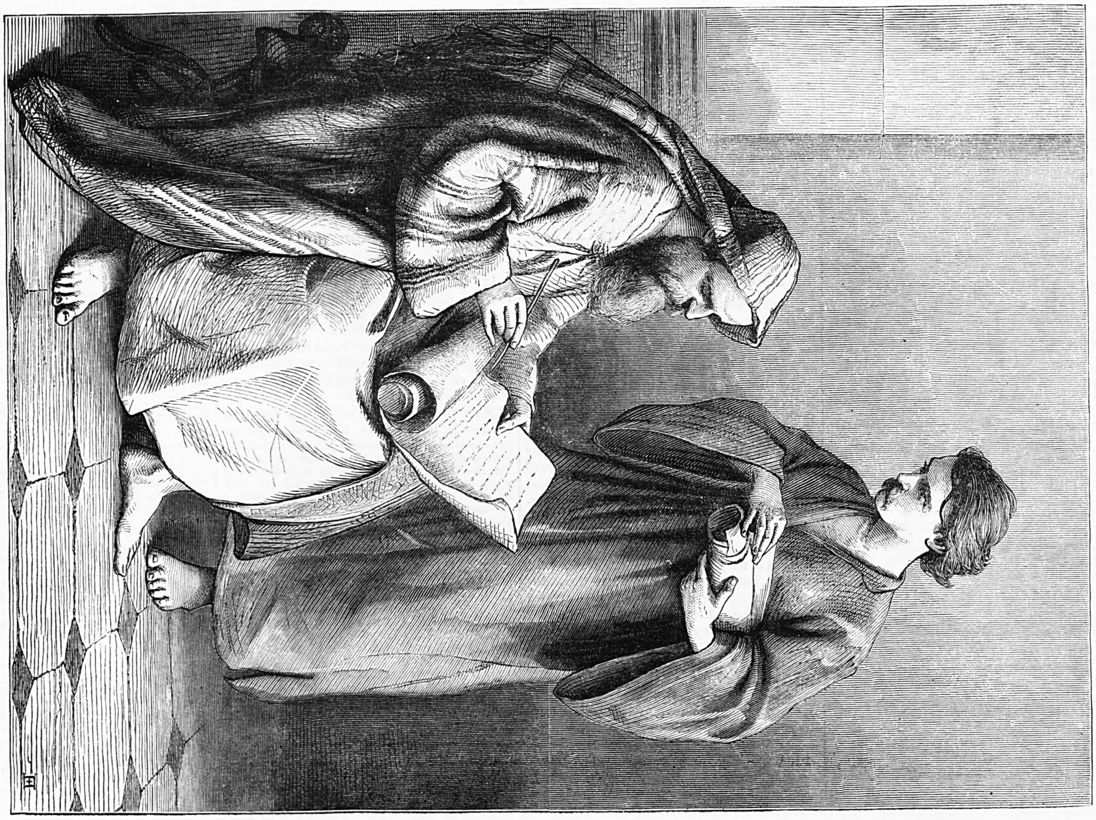
"CONSOLATION."—BY *S. L. FILDES.*

DAILY NEWSPAPERS.—According to the *Printers' Register*—the well-conducted organ of the Printing Trade—there are now 97 newspapers issued daily in Great Britain and Ireland, distributed as follows:—In London, 11 morning and 7 evening; in the Provinces, 52; in Scotland 10; in Ireland, 14; in Wales, 2; in the Channel Islands, 1.

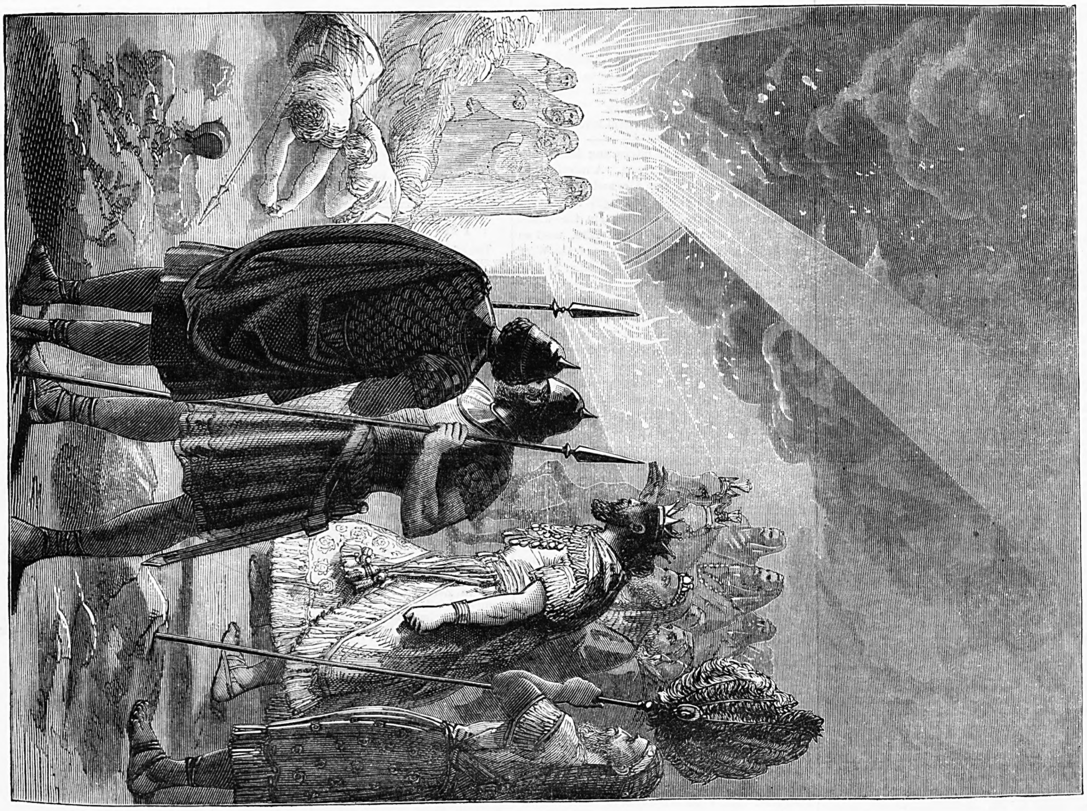
TRADE IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE.—There are more cheering signs of renewed trade than there were a week or two ago. At the quarterly meeting of the North Staffordshire Coal and Ironmasters' Association, held on Thursday, it was reported that the trade was moderately active, and that the orders coming in were sufficient to keep the mills and forges at work from eight to ten turns a week. The demand had slackened since the advance in December, and no alteration was now made in prices. An advance of 5s. per ton in the price of pig iron had been obtained, but this was not in proportion to the declared price of finished iron. As, however, stocks were being reduced, the prospects of this department were likely to improve.



BY THE SEA.—*From a Picture by M. Maxime Lalanne.* (*See page* 331.)



SAINT PAUL IN PRISON. (*See page 323.*)



NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND THE MIRACLE OF THE FIERY FURNACE. (*See page 326.*)

SPECIAL Advertisements inserted in this column at special rates.

NOTICE.

IN consequence of numerous Complaints from private persons and the trade, that the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is only to be obtained with difficulty in London, Messrs. Hatton & Co., beg to state that they have OPENED a SPECIAL PUBLISHING OFFICE, at 33, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, under the management of Mr. R. Watson. Henceforth, all the London Agents will be supplied from that office every Friday morning, and the paper can be had there at all times. Country agents may now order through *all the London Agents*, in the same way that they order their London papers.

HEAD OFFICES: 108, NEW STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

WHAT IS THE HOLY GRAIL? See CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPÆDIA, under article Grail. [516

ROBERT COCKS and Co.'s "MUSICAL BOX."—A Caprice for the Pianoforte. Composed by I. LIEBICH, and performed by him at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover Square, and twice encored. Free by post for 19 stamps.

THE SMILES OF THOSE WE LOVE. Song. By W. F. TAYLOR.—"One of the most elegant songs of the day." "The air is simplicity itself and will be caught up at once, and the pretty and harmless character of the words renders it peculiarly appropriate as a song for the home circle." —Vide Orchestra. Free by post for 19 stamps.

THE elegant Ballad of the Day is FAR AWAY. By Miss M. LINDSAY (Mrs. J. W. Bliss.) The same for the Pianoforte, by CARL LUINI. Each free by post for 19 stamps.

MR. W. T. WRIGHTON'S NATIONAL SONGS and BALLADS are, "Thy Voice is Near," "The Music of her Voice," "In the Downhill of Life," and "Morn on the Meadow."—Each free by post for 19 stamps.

THE HOLY FAMILY. Sacred Melodies. Arranged by W. H. CALLCOTT for the pianoforte. Solos, 5s. each; duets, 6s. each; accompaniments for flute, violin, and violoncello, 1s. each. Complete in 12 books. Each book free at half-price, with an extra stamp for postage.

LONDON:
ROBERT COCKS & CO., NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
May be had everywhere. [515

GOVERNESS PUPIL.—There is a VACANCY for a Governess Pupil, for three or four years, in a superior ladies' school of long standing. This establishment is peculiarly suited to parents desirous of educating their daughters for finishing governesses, as well as for those requiring for them thorough tuition, with many home privileges and an agreeable residence, at a moderate charge. Address 1870, Post Office, B. Talterton, Devon. [519

TO EMIGRANTS.—Where not to Immigrate. Now ready, One Shilling, post free. QUEENSLAND AS IT IS: A Faithful Picture of the Destitution of Immigrants—Enormities of the Slave Trade, and an explanation of the "Free Grants," Heat, Drought, &c. Compiled by A. CARR, published by THOMAS COOPER & Co., 81, Fleet Street, London. [518

Second Edition, Free by Post for four Stamps.

OXYGEN.—By GEORGE BARTH, 26, Duke Street, Bloomsbury. "A very clever and useful little treatise on the power of Oxygen as nature's remedy in disease."—JOHN BULL. [206

NEW SONGS, by E. LAND.—LA GITANA (Joyous and Free.) Valse Cavatina. "Brilliant but not difficult, showy and effective, encored nightly," 24 Stamps from LAMBORN COCK, 63, New Bond Street. Also, "Whisp'rings from my Angel Love!" Sung by Mr. Vernon Rigby, with immense success, 19 Stamps, from DUNCAN DAVISON, 244, Regent Street, and all Musicsellers. [479

SOUTH OF ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE for YOUNG LADIES, HARRAGE HALL, ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE. A select number of Pupils received at this establishment, the constant aim and solicitude of the Principal being to combine the comforts of a cheerful home and maternal care with the intellectual advantages and order of a carefully-regulated school. The system of education, based on christian principles, is comprehensive and efficient, calculated to render the pupils observant, amiable, and intelligent. The course of general tuition comprises superior instruction in the higher branches of history, science, and literature, with unusual facilities for the acquirements of the various accomplishments. The house is spacious, airy, and detached, pleasantly situated with extensive gardens, shrubbery, and pleasure grounds. The salubrity of the situation has long been proved and acknowledged. A very kind, cheerful home afforded to children from India, of whom the entire charge in every way is taken: reference to parents now in India. The domestic arrangements are conducted in a very liberal manner, the health and comfort of the pupils being the primary consideration. A Parisienne and German governesses resident. Ladies prepared for efficient governesses; also, for Queen's College, and Oxford and Cambridge examinations. Railway Station five minutes' walk. For terms, which are inclusive, address, The Principal, Harrage Hall, Romsey. Studies will commence (D.V.) on January 22nd, 1870. The Principal is in London, and would see any ladies desirous of sending their daughters who are not at Waterloo Station to come in charge of a governess to Romsey. [496

W. T. BELCHER, Mus. Bac., Oxon, Fell. Coll. Org., Professor of the Organ, Pianoforte, Singing, and the Theory of Music, 3, Hampstead Road, and at 23, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [403

NOTICE.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS IN PARIS AND ON THE CONTINENT.

This paper may now be purchased in Paris at 50 centimes (about 5d.) at the Kiosks, and at the bookstalls on all the French Railways.

M. de Bernardy, 8, Place de la Madeléine, is the Wholesale Agent in Paris; and will supply the paper to regular subscribers in France, Spain Italy, and Switzerland.

TO AGENTS AND ADVERTISERS.

Wholesale Agents for THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS are being appointed in every town in the kingdom. Terms, and full particulars, may be learnt on application at the Office, 108, New Street, Birmingham.

P. O. Orders to be made payable to the Publishers. Cheques to be crossed Birmingham and Midland Bank.

Communications and orders for Papers or Advertisements should be addressed to the *Publishers*, and not to the Editor.

All remittances will be acknowledged on a printed receipt form, *and no other receipt will be held valid.*

Advertisements are inserted at the rate of 6d. per line up to 25 lines; from 25 up to 50 lines, 9d. per line; after 50, 1s. per line. Space will be measured as lines. Scale and measure may be had on application at the Office. Double columns charged at one-fourth more than the rate of two columns. No extra charge for approved cuts.

Mr. Allday is our only authorised Advertisement Canvasser in Birmingham.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths are inserted at a uniform charge of 2s. 6d.

The Trade will be supplied with this paper in London by Messrs. Smith, 186, Strand; by Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., Ave Maria Lane, E.C.; and at the London Publishing Office of the Paper, at 33, Essex-street, Strand. Annual Subscribers can be supplied free by post direct from the Office, 108, New Street, at 17s. 6d. a year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A military correspondent wishes to correct the local press with regard to Lord Napier's uniform at the recent distribution of prizes at Birmingham:

> "Lord Napier wore the uniform of the 3rd London Corps, of which his lordship is honorary Colonel. Over this uniform he wore the crimson and gold sash of a General Officer, and the blue riband of the order of the Star of India."

THE ACCIDENT AT THE BRISTOL THEATRE.

We are compelled to postpone, until next week, the publication of an illustration of the above disaster, specially sketched for this Journal.

GRATIS SUPPLEMENT.

ON JANUARY 29
Will be presented with the
ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS
A FULL-PAGE ENGRAVING,
Specially drawn by F. ELTZE, entitled—
A WINTER'S MORNING:—COMING HOME FROM CHURCH.

Early Orders should be given to the publisher for extra copies.

The Illustrated
MIDLAND NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, JAN. 15, 1870.

A CONFERENCE of the local governing bodies of the Potteries, convened by the Mayor of Hanley, was held at Stoke-upon-Trent, on Thursday afternoon, for the purpose of considering the subject of the pollution of the Trent, by the towns of Hanley, Burslem, Newcastle, Stoke, Longton, Tunstall, and Fenton. Mr. Loch, Q.C., M.P., who attended on behalf of the Duke of Sutherland, stated that the river at Trentham was in a dreadful state of pollution, so much so that the Duke of Sutherland would either have to abandon that charming place as a residence or would be compelled to enforce his legal rights. A discussion ensued, after which Mr. Loch submitted the following heads of a bill, mentioning that the Duke of Sutherland would be quite willing to defray the expense that might be incurred in its preparation. Clause 1. Prohibit draining into running streams. 2. Constitute board representing all boards of health affected by prohibition. 3. Powers for board to devise means for disposing of sewage by (*a*) contract with persons or companies, or by (*b*) purchase of land and erection of works for deodorising, &c. 4. Funds to be provided by the boards of health in proportion to district rate. Power to boards of health to borrow on rates or extension of their present powers, if necessary. Separate penalty clauses for boards or individuals. The suggestions of Mr. Loch were unanimously adopted by the meeting, and it was resolved to consider the draft bill at a future meeting. We believe Lord Beauchamp, of Madresfield Court, near Malvern, suffered some time ago from the pollution by Malvern Link of a stream which not only runs through his estate, but into a moat that surrounds his fine old residence. His lordship, however, has made arrangements, we believe, for the abolition of this nuisance. In small districts, such as that at Malvern, we are surprised that the leading authorities do not introduce Moule's earth closet, which is now adopted by all the Government offices in India, and which is coming into use for large establishments in the country districts of England. We cannot imagine an easier way out of the difficulty. There is a general introduction of this useful invention.

LEEDS, we observe, is interesting itself with regard to the pollution of rivers. A meeting has been held to consider the Aire and Calder Conservancy Bill, by which it is sought to place in the hands of elected commissioners the whole control of the rivers Calder and Aire, used so largely by the textile manufacturers of the West Riding. There is a decided opposition to this bill where rivers have become important to a number of large factories. The difficulties of purification thus increase, but time will bring about important changes with regard to refuse matter, which is now turned into the rivers. It is most important that Imperial action should take place to restrain the unnecessary pollution of our beautiful streams. It is thought that the question will not, however, come before Parliament this session.

ALTHOUGH nothing was done at the last meeting of the Birmingham Town Council in the matter of shelter for cabmen, the feeling in favour of erecting huts for the drivers of these vehicles is spreading. We described, several weeks ago, the building which has been recently erected in Edinburgh for cabmen—a wooden structure, where the men are sheltered from the weather, and where, if they like, they may obtain hot water and other conveniences. The cost of this shed has been defrayed by private subscription and by the cabmen themselves. Before many weeks have passed we hope to see Birmingham setting other Midland towns a good example in this direction.

THE congregation of St. George's, Wolverhampton, and the Rev. A. S. Prior cannot settle their differences. A portion of the congregation object to the use of the surplice in the pulpit, where they contend that the black Geneva gown is the proper vestment. Mr. Prior is resolved to follow his own inclination, and insists upon wearing the surplice when he preaches. The question whether the white surplice or the black gown is the strictly orthodox habit of the preacher is hardly worth entering into in these days of disputed doctrine and moot points of ceremonial. Mr. Prior, though perhaps he is acting injudiciously in wearing what some of his congregation object to, has right on his side, the Bishop of Lichfield having authorised him "to wear the surplice at all times" in his public ministrations.

THERE is some dissatisfaction at Wednesbury arising from the non-appointment of a resident magistrate—an official which our friends desire to possess. It is vexing to Wednesbury to see Darlaston with a newly-appointed resident Justice of the Peace, who, it is said, will sit at Willenhall. They have memorialised and memorialised, but in vain. The Lord Chancellor evidently has a high opinion of the Wednesbury people, and does not consider a resident magistrate at present one of their local requirements.

AT Plymouth there is a School of Science and Art. In distributing the prizes to the students, the other evening, the Bishop of Exeter made some very sensible remarks upon "the industrial phase of society." The time has come, his lordship says, when they who can do the most for the benefit of their fellow-creatures, either in the way of instructing them or comforting them—whether the labours be with head, heart, or hand—will be reckoned the most important persons in society. The man who will rank the lowest will be the man who is thoroughly idle. The Bishop sympathises deeply with the command of St. Paul that if a man would not work he should not eat. Now, if labour has become the most important thing in society, it is clear that we want to study all the principles and rules by which labour of every kind is regulated. The more we can spread a knowledge of these principles the more we shall improve the whole state of the country. His lordship has the highest opinion of the value of Schools of Science and Art. He thinks they may be regarded as a necessity to our working men. Without doubt, the more the workman knows about the principles of his own branch of industry the more he studies them, the more intelligent he becomes, and the wider he extends his studies. The Bishop would like to see a very much larger cultivation of the understanding. He would like to see working men engage in every possible way in the study of literature as well as science and art, but "literature is some way off." Science and art, on the contrary, are close at hand. If his lordship saw the number and character of the books taken out of the Free Library at Birmingham he would feel that literature was a little nearer than he at present sees reason to believe. It must be gratifying to the working men that they have the encouragement of so deep a thinker as the Bishop of Exeter.

THE Millennium may at last be looked for. The Right Hon. John Bright says that the working men are no longer shouldered out of a fair representation in Parliament, and that there is no longer any need for fierce political meetings. The distinguished member for Birmingham concluded his address with some remarks upon virtue and temperance, which we heartily endorse. They contain the principles of every honest man's politics. No people can be great and happy without the practice of virtue and temperance. We hope the working men will lay this truism to heart. The sentiment should appeal to the women also. Many a working man is driven into intemperate habits through the bad management of his wife. A slatternly woman, a dirty house, and ill-regulated children, have destroyed many a man's happiness and honesty. To a great extent the women of the working classes are responsible for the good or bad conduct of their husbands.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The little town of Much Wenlock has succeeded in establishing a society of national importance, and one which must eventually do a great deal to develope the principles and advance the spread of physical education. The moving spirit of the society is Mr. W. P. Brookes, chairman of the committee. We observe that Mr. George Dixon, M.P., of Birmingham, is the society's president. The association is commending itself every day to the support of the nation. The society is anxious for the introduction of some light gymnastic training into our national primary schools. Mr. Gladstone, in a letter to Mr. Brookes in 1862, said "that no education, however otherwise excellent, could be considered complete from which physical training was excluded," and we cannot wonder that ancient Greeks, as Mr. Gladstone has remarked, "produced specimens of our kind which have never been surpassed," when we reflect that it was their aim to develop simultaneously all the faculties of man, and not to force the intellect at the cost of bodily health and strength (as is too much our custom in these days). That the Greeks attached the highest importance to religion, morality, intellect and bodily health, is shown by the arrangements for their festivals, which were inaugurated by sacrifices to Zeus, and by the exclusion from the games of all who were attainted of crime or notoriously immoral; by their musical contests with the fluit and cithara; by the public reading of historical works; by the great care they took in the development of their bodies, producing beauty, symmetry, and power, examples of which have been handed down to us in the splendid remains of their sculpture from living models. The management of the National Olympian Association is desirous, in a reasonable degree, to imitate the ancient Greeks, believing that the great weakness in the present system of educating the people generally is the absence of a due regard to physical training. Much Wenlock has an admirable recreation ground, and the next annual meeting of the Olympians is to be held there on Whit-Monday, June 7. Their silver medal, the dies for which cost £110, will prove no doubt a great atttraction to athletes in all parts of England. It is very creditable to the district that it should have formed the nucleus of an association that bids fair to become of great national importance.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

A NEW USE FOR WATERCRESS.—A correspondent of a Calcutta paper makes a curious suggestion to tobacco-smokers. Alluding to the alleged discovery, by a Parisian chemist, that watercress is a perfect antidote to nicotine, he says: It lately entered into my head to try how some of it dried would smoke. To my great satisfaction I found that, when put into my pipe, after a couple of days' drying in the sun, it had all the flavour of the best Cavendish without the treacle, and it was even stronger than Cavendish. Here, then, is a perfect substitute for tobacco, without the deleterious and deadly poison so freely contained in the latter; and it is at the same time cheaper. Watercress, with its fine stalks and leaves, when dried, requires no cutting to fit it for the pipe; and while a pound of cut tobacco ranges from 2 rs. to 4 rs., here we have an article a rupee's worth of which, when dried, would weigh more than a couple of pounds.

THE HAIR.—The quality and colour of the hair was a subject of speculative theory for the ancients. Lank hair was considered indicative of pusillanimity and cowardice; yet the head of Napoleon was guitless of a curl! Frizzly hair was thought an indication of coarseness and clumsiness. The hair most in esteem, was that terminating in ringlets. Dares, the historian, states that Achilles and Ajax Telamon had curling locks; such also was the hair of Timon, the Athenian. As to the Emperor Augustus, nature had favoured him with such redundant locks, that no hair-dresser in Rome could produce the like. Auburn or light-brown hair was thought the most distinguished, as portending intelligence, industry, a peaceful disposition, as well as a great susceptibility to the tender passion. Castor and Pollux had brown hair; so also had Menelaus. Black hair does not appear to have been esteemed by the Romans; but red was an object of aversion. Ages before the time of Judas, red hair was thought a mark of reprobation, both in the case of Typhon, who deprived his brother of the sceptre of Egypt, and Nebuchadnezzar who acquired it in expiation of his atrocities. Even the donkey tribe suffered from this ill-omened visitation, according to the proverb of "wicked as a red ass." Asses of that colour were held in such detestation among the Copths, that every year they sacrificed one by hurling it from a high wall.

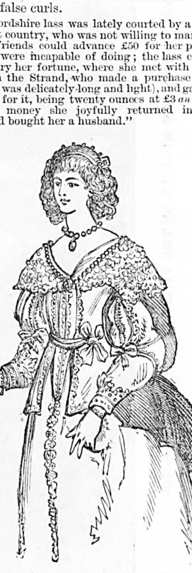
A BRAISE FOR BUTCHER'S MEAT.—Take a kettle, and line the bottom with slices of bacon, slices of beef, and slices of onions; then put in it your meat, and season it with salt, pepper, onions, carrots, sweet basil, thyme, and bay-leaves; lay over it more slices of beef and bacon; then cover it, and let it be done with fire under and over. You may, in this sort of braise, dress ribs of beef, mutton-saddles, and loins of mutton, buttocks of beef, or any other sort of coarse meat, which is put in a braise.

MINCE PIES WITHOUT MEAT.—Six pounds of apples, pared, cored, and minced; of fresh suet, and rasins stoned, three pounds each; to these add of mace and cinnamon, a quarter of an ounce each, and eight cloves powdered, three pounds of powdered sugar, three-quarters of an ounce of salt, the rinds of four, and the juice of two lemons, half-a-pint of port, and the same of brandy. Mix well, and put into a deep pan. Have ready washed and dried four pounds of currants, and as you make the pies, add candied fruit.

FOR HYDROPHOBIA.—Dissolve a pint of common table salt in a pint of boiling water, scarify the part affected freely, then apply the salt water with a cloth as warm as the patient can bear it, repeating the same for at least an hour. The same recipe has been successfully applied for the bite of a rattlesnake.

PURCHASING A HUSBAND.—The following paragraph, copied from a magazine of 1790, not only gives us a curious instance of female determination in the pursuit of a husband, but tells us of the price which human hair was worth at the period when ladies wore such monstrous head-dresses of false curls.

> "An Oxfordshire lass was lately courted by a young man of that country, who was not willing to marry her unless her friends could advance £50 for her portion, which they were incapable of doing; the lass came to London to try her fortune, where she met with a good chapman in the Strand, who made a purchase of her hair (which was delicately long and light), and gave her *sixty pounds* for it, being twenty ounces at £3 *an ounce*; with which money she joyfully returned into the country, and bought her a husband."



This illustration represents a lady of fashion in the days of Louis XIV. It was an entire change from the previous reign, in which stiff, formal bodies and ruffs were the rage. The costume represented in our cut was satirised and condemned by the moralists of that age: it was thought to be too "free and easy," the neck being too much exposed. We have gone far beyond this in 1869.

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

The Bishop of Rochester preached at St. Philip's, Birmingham, on Sunday morning.

Walsall railway station is to be greatly improved.

Captain-Commandant Newton, of the Newark Rifle Corps, has been presented by the company with a splendid cup.

A musical entertainment was given on Thursday evening at the Birmingham Workhouse for the amusement of the inmates.

Mr. Edward Capern presided at a tea-meeting of the Birmingham Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society on Saturday.

No opposition has been lodged to the Dudley, Oldbury, and Birmingham High Level Railway Bill on standing orders.

A baker, named Deakin, of 61, Pershore-street, Birmingham, hanged himself from a bedpost on Saturday. He had been drinking hard for a fortnight.

On Sunday simultaneous collections were made, for the second time, in most of the churches and chapels in and around Wolverhampton on behalf of the South Staffordshire Hospital.

A Whitworth Exhibition of £25 a year has been carried off by Thomas A. Lacey, of the Nottingham Grammar School, a gold medallist last year.

Mr. Hinde Palmer, the junior member for Lincoln, has given a donation of £5 to the West Newland Mission Chapel, and become a subscriber of one guinea to the Penitent Females' Home.

The designation of the Rev. Dr. Henry Mackenzie, who has been accepted by the Crown as suffragan Bishop of Lincoln, will be "Bishop of Nottingham," and in that form the letters patent are being made out.

The Earl of Stamford and Warrington has just had a magnificent ball-room erected at Enville. On Friday night a ball was given by his lordship to his tenantry. Both the Earl and Countess were present, and the ball was a delightful one in every respect.

MASTER AND SERVANT.—At the Warwick County Court, on Friday, a case demonstrating the law between master and servant was heard. A footman, named John Drinkwater, sued Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P. for Birmingham, for £4 5s. 6d. arrears of wages, and £1 6s. 1d. in lieu of a month's notice. It was shown that the plaintiff had taken out one of his master's horses on the 27th of September last, and let it fall on its knees. Plaintiff said he had permission from the coachman to take the horse out, but his evidence was contradicted. The jury found that the plaintiff had been guilty of misconduct, which was tantamount to a verdict for the defendant.

THE DERBY POISONING CASE.—This affair, reported last week, remains as mysterious as before. Samuel Ford died on Friday, and at the inquest on Saturday—

> Mr. Foulds, surgeon, deposed that he was called in to see Ford about have-past five o'clock on the afternoon of the 1st instant, when he found him in a partially unconscious state. He had then been vomiting, and the vomits were slightly tinged with blood. His teeth were set, consequently the stomach pump could not be used, and as it was not known what poison had been taken, antidotes could not be administered. Stimulants and nourishing diet were administered, and for two or three days he slightly improved but he afterwards gradually sank.—Mr. Ilifie, surgeon, made a *post-mortem* examination, and on opening the chest he found the heart and lungs healthy. The internal coats of the stomach and the whole of the small intestines showed signs of intense inflammation. The liver was enlarged, and in a state of fatty degeneration. There was also an immense quantity of fat about the kidneys, which themselves were healthy. The appearance of the stomach and intestines was such as would be produced by some virulent poison.—After the evidence the jury returned the following verdict:—"Died from the effects of deadly poison, but whether taken by his own hand, or whether it was administered to him by any other person, does not appear."

WORCESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Earl Beauchamp (president), took the chair on Saturday at the annual meeting of this society, at the Crown Hotel, Worcester. The report, read by Mr. A. Buck, secretary, showed that the last exhibition at Worcester was not a commercial success:—

> The expenses outbalanced the receipts by over £400, and the committee had therefore been compelled to call upon the guarantors for their promised subscriptions, which had been mostly paid up, and that left a balance of about £250 in hand. The committee, carrying out a recent resolution of the Society that it should be migratory, and hold its shows in different localities in the county, suggested that the show next year should be held on the 30th and 31st of August and 1st days of September. The total expenditure of the society at their show last year was £1,882 13s. 7d.

The report was adopted. Mr. Dowdeswell, M.P., thought that £300 was not too much to ask from the district where the show would be held. It was resolved to hold the next show at some other town than Worcester—what place is to be honoured was not decided upon. Lord Beauchamp consented to act as president until his successor was appointed; and votes of thanks were given to his lordship and to Mr. Buck.

WARWICKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Mr. C. M. Caldecott presided on Saturday at a meeting of this society, at Warwick. The principal business referred to the next exhibition. Messrs. S. N. Jones (Chairman of the Leamington Local Board), and J. Glover and the Rev. T. B. Whitehurst, members of the Leamington deputation, attended the meeting. The former laid on the table a guarantee for £300, signed by many gentlemen of Leamington, as required by the society.

> With regard to providing land for ploughing, draining, &c., and ricks for thatching, he was happy to be able to state that Mr. John Oldham, farmer, near Leamington, was willing to accommodate them; but they had some little difficulty in procuring a suitable place for holding the show. That difficulty, however, they had overcome, and they could again offer the society the same land that was used for a show-yard on the occasion of their last visit to the town. But for the use of it they would have to pay an additional sum to both the tenant and the owner of the land, for damages they might sustain. To the former they would have to pay £20, and to the latter £10, making a total of £30.

It was resolved that the society's next exhibition be held at Leamington. The Mayor of Warwick (Mr. Nelson) trusted that, as the Warwick deputation had not opposed Leamington's claim this year, the latter would be equally forbearing with Warwick at some future time.

Mr. John Bright visited Bolton on Friday.

On Sunday the new bells at Worcester Cathedral chimed for morning service for the first time.

A theatrical license has been granted by the Wolverhampton magistrates to Mr. H. J. Powell, of the Theatre Royal at that town.

The colliery engine tenders in the neighbourhood of Brierley Hill intend to strike, unless they get an advance of wages.

A Freemason's Lodge has been opened at Market Rasen. Brother Dickinson, of Lincoln, manufactured the furniture.

Colonel Wright is about to resign his seat for Nottingham owing to ill-health. Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Digby Seymour are expected to contest the vacancy.

The following inscription is on a stone in Brislington Churchyard, near Bristol:—"1542. Thomas Newman, aged 153. This stone was new faced in the year 1771, to perpetuate the great age of the deceased."

Edward Rigby, a Walsall Volunteer, was buried with the usual honours on Sunday, at the local cemetery. The service was to have been read by the Rev. W. Lees, but the funeral procession being behind time he had to leave before its arrival, and much time was lost before some one could be found to officiate in his stead.

A MIDLAND DEBTOR AT WHITECROSS-STREET PRISON.—A local paper says that amongst the debtors released from Whitecross-street prison last week was Mr. R. Brewster, well-known in Lincoln, who was in prison on a charge of fraudulently obtaining money at Market Rasen. Being brought to that place, no one appeared against him, and he was discharged.

DEATH OF THE REV. PHILIP GELL, OF DERBY.—The death was announced on Monday of the Rev. Philip Gell, Vicar of St. John's, Derby, one of the most prominent members of the Evangelical party in the Church of England. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1805, being Sixth Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos, One of his sons is the Bishop of Madras.

MARVELLOUS ESCAPE OF A CHILD.—The other afternoon a child fell out of a railway carriage near Stoke station, between Bromsgrove and Droitwich. The child's mother was in the same carriage, and was only prevented by force from leaping after her daughter. The driver and guard of the train were signalled to stop, but without effect, and the train did not pull up until it arrived at Worcester. Here communication was made to Mr. Beauchamp, the station superintendent, who telegraphed to Droitwich and Bromsgrove stations what had happened, and an inspector was sent up the line on an engine to look after the missing child. On nearing Stoke station he came up with the little girl, who had again got upon the line. He took her up and brought her to Worcester, when it was found that she was comparatively little hurt, having only received a cut on the forehead.

BIRMINGHAM CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL.—Mr. J. T. Chance presided at the annual meeting of this Hospital on Monday. The report of the Committee of Management stated that subscriptions amounting to £1,004 were paid into the bank during the year 1869, against £940 in the previous year. The subscription list amounted to £1,100. The total income was £1,498 16s. 2d.—the largest income from ordinary sources which the charity had ever yet received. The expenditure amounted to £1,764 2s. 3d. The year's deficit was £265 6s. 1d., which—with a small balance against the Hospital last year—caused an overdraft of £450 at the bank. During the year 13,525 patients had been treated—a decrease of 91 as compared with the previous year. The report of the Committee and that of the Medical Officers were agreed to. Mr. G. F. Muntz was elected President, and other routine business was transacted.

LIBERAL GATHERING AT KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. T. Lea, the member for Kidderminster, was entertained at a public dinner on Friday night by his constituents, "to celebrate the triumph of Liberal principles in the borough at the last election." Almost 800 persons attended. Mr. Lea, M.P., glanced at the business of the last Parliamentary session, and regretted the absence of Mr. Lowe. Referring to the new mode of paying the taxes, Mr. Lea said they could not have the glory of the Abyssinian expedition unless they paid for it. Major Anson, M.P. for Bewdley, thought every class and interest in the country was fairly represented in the House of Commons. He thought it would be very difficult for working men to get into the House of Commons, owing to the cost of returning members, the expense of living in London all the season, and the demand upon the member's time. He would do anything to help to return a working man to Parliament, as he thought the thing should be tried.

WHY THE ALBERT AND EUROPEAN ASSURANCE SOCIETIES FAILED.—At a meeting of shareholders and policyholders of the European Assurance Society, held at Birmingham, on Thursday, Dr. Watts, of Manchester, chief agent of the society, said that, apart from the shock caused by the Chancery proceedings, the cause of the embarrassment of the society was the purchase of new business. £270,000 had been paid in this way, and £270,000 in hand would be sufficient to meet more than half a million of liabilities as they became due upon polices. He had more than once denounced the transactions which took place on the amalgamation of various societies as swindles, because the bulk of the money went not to the policyholders nor even to the shareholders, but to negotiators. The Albert and European had between them paid half a million for new business, and the lion's share went to persons not exceeding five in number. This was the explanation of the failure of the Albert and of the embarrassment of the European. He said the balance-sheet, laid before Vice-Chancellor James, showed that the society had funds enough, including the capital at call, to meet all engagements. The policyholders were therefore safe; and for the purpose of re-establishing the society upon a permanently prosperous basis, he invited the gentlemen present to make new life proposals and to induce their friends to do so. Questions having been asked, it was resolved unanimously to assist the directors to re-establish the society on a prosperous basis.

The child-inmates of King's Norton Workhouse were treated with a Christmas tree on New Year's Eve. Songs and carols were sung, and there were other amusements for the delighted children.

The Grand Centenary Ball of the Shrewsbury Hunt was given on Tuesday night at the Music Hall, Shrewsbury. The ball was opened in a country dance by General Sir Percy Herbert with Mrs. Boughey. Most of the officers present, naval and military, wore uniform, which added much to the brilliant effect of the scene.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE.—Mr. W. Kenrick (senior vice-president) presided at the annual meeting of this Institute on Monday; and sketched its history and progress since its establishment in 1858. This year there was a surplus of income over expenditure of £227 11s. 4d. The report was altogether satisfactory and encouraging. Dr. Lyon Playfair was requested to accept the office of President, filled last year by Mr. Dickens. The usual and formal business was transacted.

THE MEMBERS FOR BIRMINGHAM.—Messrs. Bright, Dixon, and Muntz addressed their constituents at the Town Hall, Birmingham, on Tuesday evening. About 7,000 persons are calculated to have been present. Mr. Bright, after referring to the share taken by himself and his colleagues in remedying the grievance which had arisen from the abolition of the system of compounding for rates, alluded to the Irish Church question, and to the difficulty which had existed in "another place" in connection with the bill. There was now no Catholic grievance in Ireland. After having had the land question before him for twenty years, it appeared to him more difficult than even it did before. The owners of land had done nothing for the cultivation of the soil. It was not a question for class and party contest, but for conscientious patriotism. From the new policy which the Government proposed they hoped for great changes in Ireland:—

> Not that Ireland is to be made a Paradise, but that Ireland shall be greatly improved. It may be, probably it is, or will seem, like the language of great exaggeration, if I quote the lines of Pope, in one of the most exquisite poems of our language:—
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> "Then Crime shall cease and ancient Fraud shall fail,
> Returning Justice lift aloft her scale,
> Peace o'er the realm her olive wand extend,
> And white-rob'd Innocence from heaven descend."
>
> (Loud applause.) I say this may appear the language of great exaggeration; but if we are able to suppress conspiracy—(hear, hear)—if we can banish agrarian crime, if we can unbar the prison doors—(loud cheers) if we can reduce all excess of military force—(hear, hear)—if we can make Ireland as tranquil as England and Scotland now are—(cheers)—then, at last, I think we may have done something to justify the statesmanship of our time. (Enthusiastic applause.)

On the subject of education, the right hon. gentleman said:—

> What I think is to be taught in every school, to every child, is this: Love of truth—(hear)—love for virtue, the love of God, and the fear of offending Him—(hear)—and I think that every right-minded and every rightly-appointed teacher in every school will undertake, as far as it is in his power, to teach that to all the children who are under his care. (Cheers.)

Referring to the French Commercial Treaty, he asked if anyone could deny that, during the ten years which the Treaty had been in force, there had grown up between France and England a sentiment of friendship, and the disposition to peace, and the absence of suspicion and angry feeling, such as we have never seen before? He concluded as follows:—

> It is a fact which every man should consider—and I have considered often and often with great solemnity, and even with much pain, during the thirty years that I have discussed public questions—it is a fact that no Government, that no Administration, that no laws, that no amount of industry or of commerce, that no extent of freedom, can give prosperity and solid comfort in the homes of the people, unless there be in those homes economy, temperance, and the practice of virtue. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) This which I am now preaching is needful for all—but it is especially needful for those whose possessions are the least abundant and the least secured. If we could subtract from the ignorance, the poverty, the suffering, the sickness, and the crime which are now witnessed amongst us—the ignorance, the poverty, the suffering, the sickness, and the crime which are caused by one single but most prevalent bad habit, or vice—the drinking needlessly of that which destroys body and mind, and home and family—(cheers)—do we not all feel that this country would be so changed, and so changed for the better, that it would be almost impossible for us to know it again? (Cheers.) Let me, then, in conclusion, say what is upon my heart to say—what I know to be true, what I have felt every hour of my life when I have been discussing great questions affecting the condition of the working classes—let me say this to all the people: that it is by the combination of a wise Government and a virtuous people, not otherwise—mark that, not otherwise—that we may hope to make some steps towards that blessed time when there shall be no complaining in our streets, when "our garners shall be full, affording all manner of store." (Prolonged cheering.)

Mr. Dixon and Mr. Muntz, who both had a very cordial reception, also addressed the meeting; and a vote of "unabated confidence" in the three members was passed with enthusiasm.—On Wednesday, Messrs. Bright, Dixon, and Muntz received a deputation from the Poor Law Guardians with reference to the accommodation for pauper epileptics at the Workhouse; from a committee appointed to obtain the exemption of schools and charitable institutions from rates; and from a deputation, appointed at a public meeting on Monday, to lay before the members the charges which had been circulated of cruelty to Fenian prisoners by prison authorities. As to the first question, Mr. Bright advised the Guardians to wait upon the President of the Poor Law Board; the rating deputation were recommended to lay their statement before Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Lowe; and as regarded the third matter, the right hon. gentleman, who said he could not see that any kind of allowance was to be made for persons "who are free to do what they please, yet conspire against our common country," he would report what the deputation had said to the members of the Administration:—

> It will be to me the greatest possible delight, as I believe it would be most certainly to every member of the Government, if they could at once throw open the prison doors and let all these men go free; but they must consult what they believe to be for the safety of the country, and they must take into consideration the general state of public opinion on this subject throughout the United Kingdom. The Government cannot go before, and it ought not to lag much behind, public opinion. It is a great and painful question, and I speak the sentiments of every member of the Administration, when I say they will give it now and in the future—and I hope in a not very remote time—all the consideration which it deserves. (Applause.)

On Wednesday the annual New Years' County Ball was held at Derby.

Mr. Gladstone will return to town from Hawarden on Monday.

There is an agitation for the appointment of a public health officer at Cheltenham.

On Monday the Bishop of Lichfield instituted the Rev. James Siddons to the perpetual curacy of Ettingshall Church.

The fen lands in Lincolnshire are flooded. Some weeks ago the country was covered with ice, and skaters could travel for miles.

It is hoped by the Salopians that the Royal Agricultural Society of England will hold their 1871 meeting at Shrewsbury.

About half of the £600, subscribed for the relief of those who suffered from the late floods at Shrewsbury, has been distributed.

The Vicar of Sedgley (the Rev. W. Lewis) died on Monday, in his 74th year. Mr. Lewis had resided at Sedgley about forty years.

The dead body of Ann Greatorex, who lived in a small court at St. Mary's-gate, Derby, was found on Tuesday. She had been dead three or four weeks.

There were festivities at Bakewell, Derby, on Wednesday, at the marriage of Miss Edith de Cardonnel Nesfield to C. Booth, Esq., of Bolton Hall, near Clitheroe.

The Slave Troupe are still performing at Curzon Hall, Birmingham. The entertainment is a capital one, and should be seen by all whose taste lies in the direction of negro minstrelsy.

A large meeting was held at Wolverhampton on Monday evening, under the auspices of the local branch of the National Education League. The Mayor presided.

The *Morning Post* understands that a marriage will shortly take place between Lieut.-Colonel Newdigate, of Byrkley Lodge, Staffordshire, and the Hon. L. Georgiana Leigh, daughter of the late Lord Leigh, and sister of the present peer.

A BRUTAL BROTHER.—Two brothers named Thomas and John Jennings, living at Leamington, were going home, with other men, on Sunday morning, when a dispute arose between Thomas Jennings and a man named Hight. The police interfered, and the party broke up. Shortly afterwards Thomas Jennings said to his brother, "I mean to settle you," and kicked him in the stomach, and subsequently made a fresh attack upon his brother with a knife. Thomas Jennings is in custody.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.

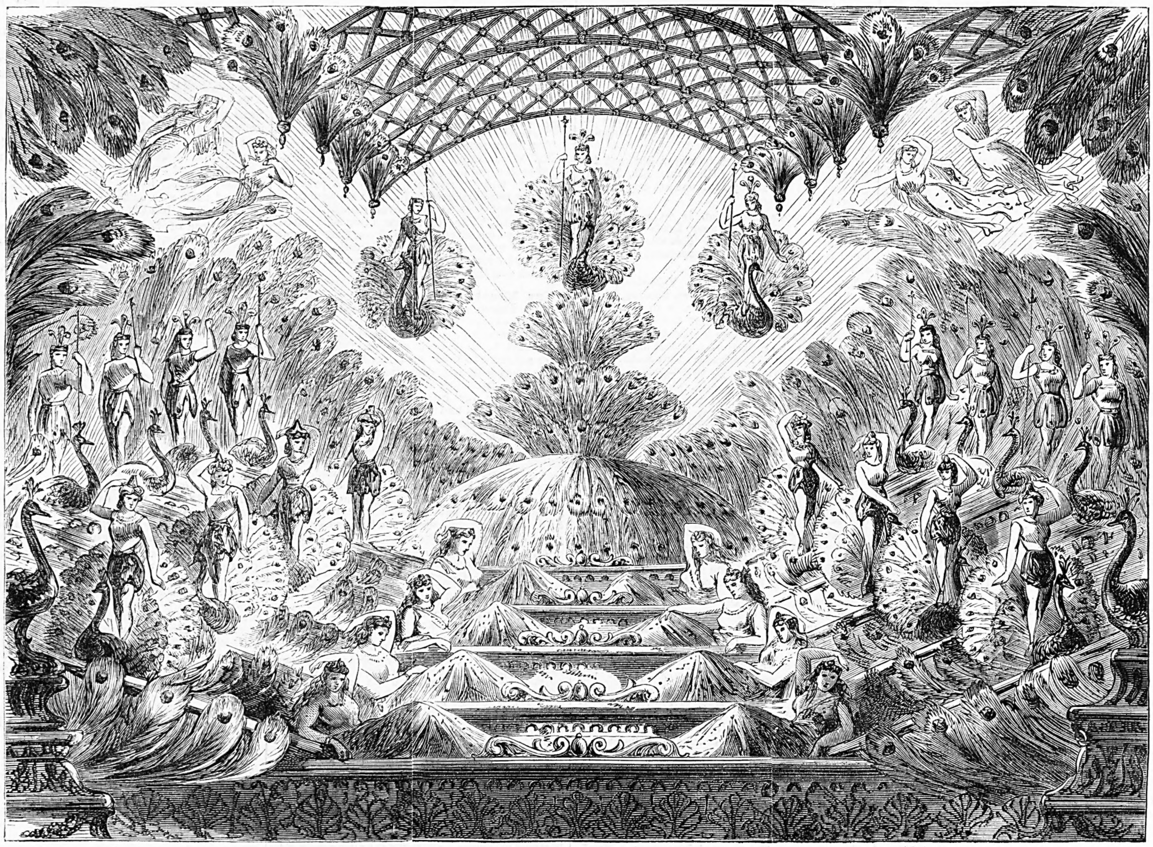
The pantomime of "Red Riding Hood" at this house is having, as it deserves, a very successful run—crowded houses being the rule every night. The drilling of the children, Nelly Smith's performance on the bicycle, and the Maypole dance are amongst the most popular features of the pantomime. There is a marvellously-beautiful transformation scene; the costumes have been designed with great taste by Mrs. Rodgers; and the stage arrangements are perfect.

BY THE SEA.

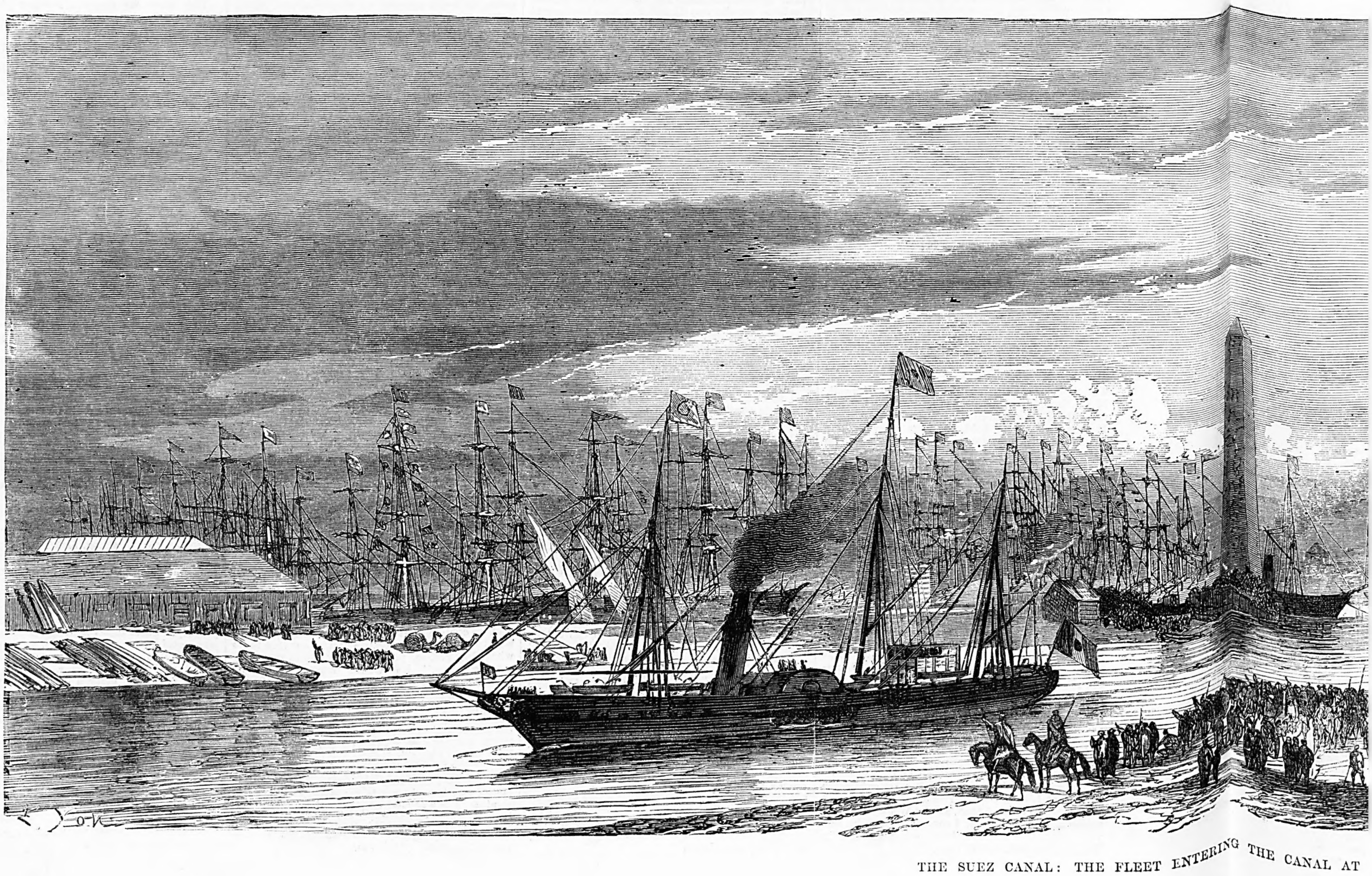
This week we engrave another picture from the French Academy of 1869, representing a scene amongst the rocks on the coast of the Vaches-Noires (Black Cows). It is an excellent piece of work from the hands of M. Maxime Lelanne, a well-known artist, who displays great taste in his studies from nature. Our engraving is all the more interesting seeing that it is also the work of the painter himself.

THE STREET ARTIST.

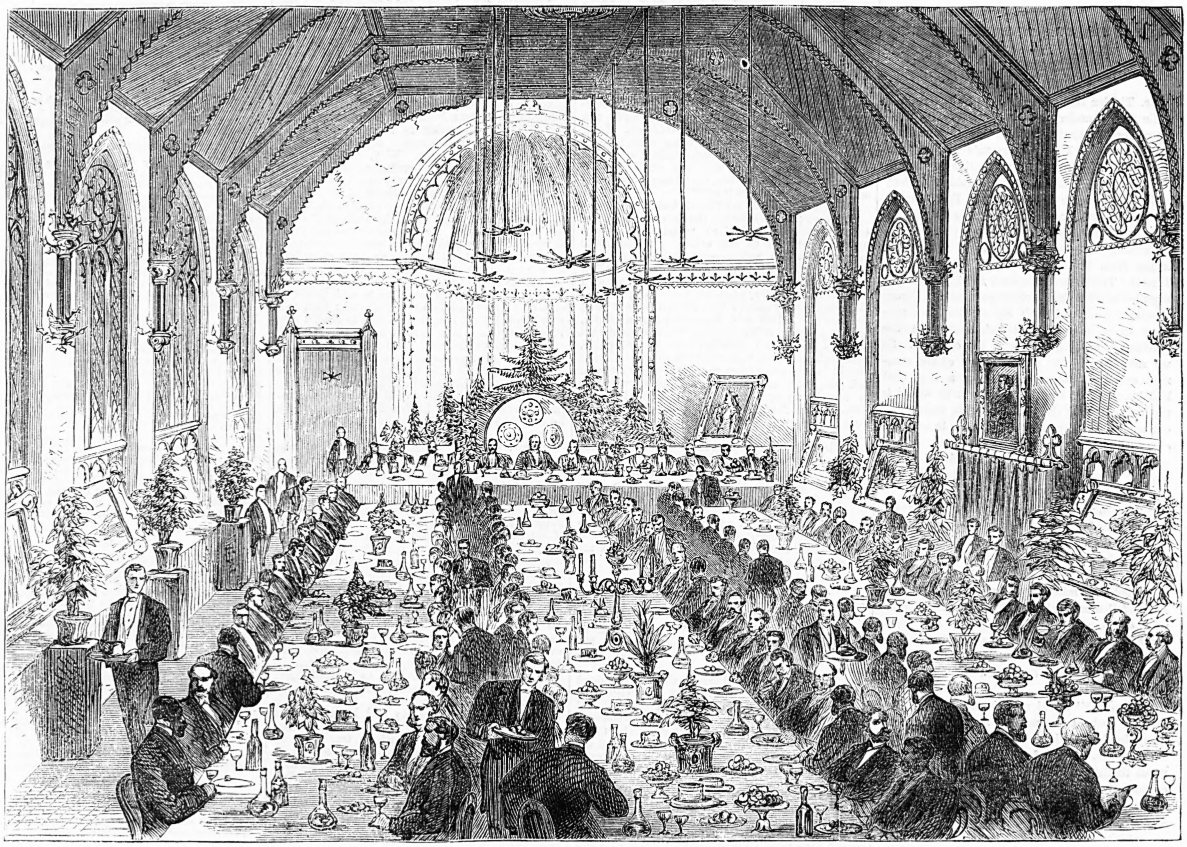
The Artist of the Street, whom Mr. Lawson has sketched on page 336, is rapidly disappearing from the public gaze. You may walk Birmingham or London streets for a year and not come across him. How is this? Has the taste for this description of pictorial art died out? Has the artist himself relinquished the business, finding, in these days of cheap illustrated periodicals, his occupation gone? We remember this type of street-life when he was in the full enjoyment of popularity. We have stood beside him whilst he produced on the pavement, in chalk outline, an appalling shipwreck, a fire at sea, an explosion down a mine, a scaffold accident, and other exciting pictures. He was greatest in piscatorial subjects; a salmon's head and shoulders, exhibiting the blood oozing out, was a picture that never failed to attract an audience. His imagination was fertile to the last. He seized upon the leading incidents of the period, and depicted them with a boldness of drawing that astonished us. His was no pencil trembling with enthusiastic reverence for his art; in fact, he discarded pen and pencil too. Give him his lumps of white, red, and blue chalk, and he would produce his pavement-pictures with a rapidity that you could not but envy, even though you did not admire the results. Our Street Artist's favourite time for exhibiting his pictures was eventide. He worked by candle-light, preferring the illumination afforded by a rushlight to the sharp, flickering rays from the gas-lamps. When we knew him, his audience consisted chiefly of children, who were admiring but unprofitable. They had no money to spend on the Street Artist. All their superfluous cash went for bull's-eyes, hardbake, and almond-rock. But the patient artist recked not of the children's poverty. Some benevolent old gentleman or lady was certain, seeing the group, to stop and look at the pictures which covered the damp pavement, and drop a copper, or may be a sixpence, into the artist's out-stretched hand or open hat. He was generally afflicted with lameness, or had lost a leg or an arm—lost, he said, by a fall down a coal-pit, or from the top-mast of a man-of-war. And now his art was all he had to live upon. A hard existence, reader—a bitter struggle for daily bread. But not a harder lot than that of many who haunt the streets. Think of the patience necessary to acquire even the rough skill of the Street Artist, and when you meet him for charity's sake toss him a coin—you will not miss it, and the artist will drink your health at the lodging-house when he goes home to supper.



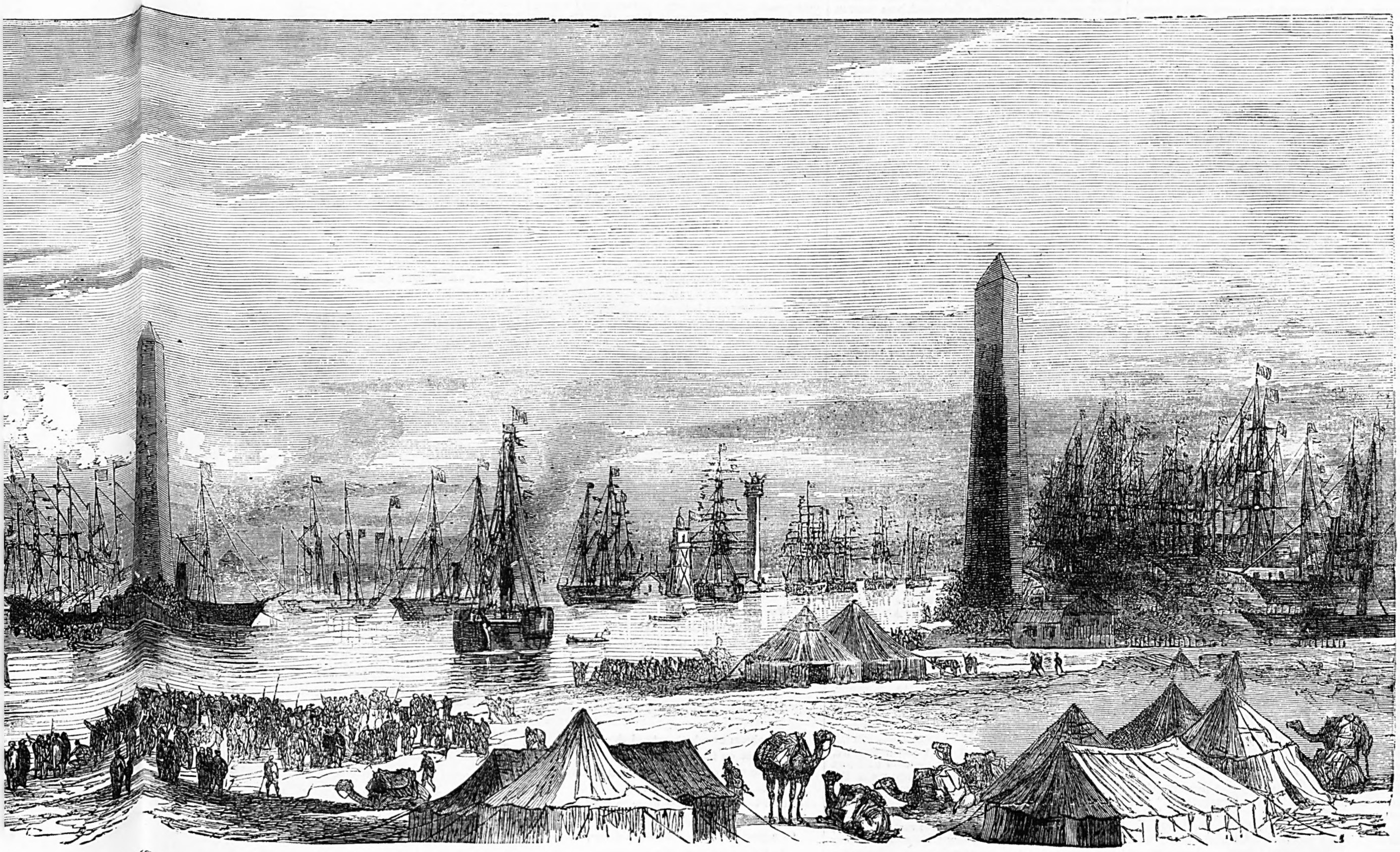
SCENE FROM THE CHRISTMAS PIECE AT DAY'S CONCERT HALL, BIRMINGHAM. *(See page 326.)*



THE SUEZ CANAL: THE FLEET ENTERING THE CANAL AT



COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' BANQUET AT THE EXCHANGE ROOMS, BIRMINGHAM. *(See page 327.)*



E FLEET ENTERING THE CANAL AT PORT SAID. *(See page 326.)*

TIMOTHY TICKLER.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "VERDANT GREEN."

CHAPTER VI.

The Tickler in Love.

Mr. Tickler had paused for refreshment, the while we sat under the cool shade of the wide-spreading chestnut-tree in front of the little roadside inn, "The Fisherman's Arms," and loungingly listened to the narrative of his adventures. The strolling-player told his story with full dramatic point; and, as Smith and I were somewhat tired with our day's fishing, we were not disinclined to wile away the time by permitting ourselves to be amused with those scenes from his life's drama with which Mr. Timothy Tickler was disposed to favour us. It beguiled us with the innocent pastime of a Penny Reading, combined with the additional advantages of an *al-fresco* entertainment, and the privilege of enjoying a pipe in the open air. So we sat there in the pleasant cool of the summer evening, pleasurably ending a day that had been full of that calm enjoyment which is the recreation of the contemplative man; and our well-filled baskets were witnesses to our success with the trout and grayling.

"Have you been subject to attacks of ticklemania," I asked, "since you left Mr. Vamper's boot and shoe shop?"

"Yes; though not precisely in the same way," replied Mr. Tickler. "Although I have often had to keep my hands tightly clenched, when I felt the fingers, like those of Jasper Packlemerton, curl in the act of tickling, yet I was never led into misconduct similar to that which had befallen me with Miss Plum and had led me into collision with Mr. Bobbinet and Tape Nephew. But, although I was able to keep my hands from tickling, yet my power for exciting the tickling feeling developed itself in a new way."

"In snuff?" asked my friend Smith, making another rush at a conclusion. And, of course, he again blundered.

"No, sir," replied Mr. Tickler; "not in nasal titillation, but in powerfully, though unconsciously, exciting the risible faculties at improper times. It was this that proved a stumbling-block to me in that new path of life on which I had entered, where one of my stumbles resulted in a fall—for, I fell in love. Her name was Lucy."

"Lucy!" I said. "Why, Mr. Tickler, you might have celebrated her charms in verse, as a companion portrait to that bright Lucy of Leinster, with the sweet face, coral lips, damask cheek and eyes of glossy blue, who was limned by Addison's friend, that Thomas Tickell, the poet, whose name, at any rate, is not very dissimilar to your own. Tickell the poet, and Tickler the player ought to be bracketed together in a list of the world's celebrities."

"Sir, you do me proud;" said Mr. Timothy Tickler, raising his hat at the compliment. "And I have the pleasure to drink your health. I looks towards you, and I likewise bows."

"Then," said I, "as Tickell, the poet, has told us of the charms of his Lucy, perhaps Tickler, the player, will do the same by his particular Lucy."

"With pleasure, gentlemen;" said the player. "But I must first hurry through the brief interval that kept me from making her acquaintance. I must, in the first place, explain to you, that when I ran away from Mr. Vamper's, I ran away from the shoe-making business altogether. In order that I might keep myself from the peculiar temptation that had beset me in my previous employment, and thus, so far as I was able, cure myself of the complaint of ticklemania, I determined to procure some occupation in which stockinged feet would not be placed in my hands in a painfully tantalising way. Fearing that Mr. Bobbinet might carry out his threat of prosecuting me, and also thinking it very likely that Tape Nephew would aid and abet his future father-in-law in this determination, I did not feel myself safe until I was fifty miles away from Mr. Vamper's establishment. The first stop that I made was in the busy manufacturing town of Cokeford, whose gloom and smoke seemed likely, as I fancied, to shroud me from observation. I wandered through its dirty streets and looked at all its grimy houses, speculating on my probable future. My course of action was determined for me by a placard in a shop-window—'An Assistant wanted.' The name over the door was 'Napper,' and the business was a Hatter's. This, I thought, would be the very place for me. In a hat-shop, I should have to do with peoples' heads, and not their feet, and so, I should be removed from my peculiar temptation. From one extreme I should pass to the other: from toe I should rise to top."

"And mount from the basement to the tiles;" I said.

"Tiles!" repeated the player. "Very good, sir: I must make a note of that joke for our next burlesque. Well, gentlemen, I went in and had an interview with Mr. Napper; and, although I was not practically acquainted with the hatting business, yet, as he chiefly wanted me to attend to the shop and keep the books, he eventually engaged me to come a month on trial; and, on that same night, I slept beneath Mr. Napper's roof, and above his tiles—to adapt your joke, sir."

"The joke is felt," I observed.

Mr. Tickler raised his hat, and quoted, "Regained the felt and felt what he regained;" and then resumed his narrative. "I now come to Lucy, whose surname was Cuppledish. I had first met with her when I had been a fortnight in my new situation. I had already been in love two or three times; as I thought, for good; but, it was not until I met with Lucy Cuppledish, that I felt that now my fate had indeed come, and that I was irretrievably under the influence of the tender passion. We met; t'was in a crowd—as the song says, and she did not attempt to shun me; she came, I could not move—the crush being very great; and her eye was upon me. Though, Lucy Cuppledish had an advantage over that young lady in the song; for she had two eyes, of which I can testify that she made an excellent use. It was at a tea-meeting that we met; they were very fond of such festivities in Cokeford, and held them on the slightest provocation. Lucy and I sat side by side, at the same table; and I had begun, at the earliest opportunity, to declare my sentiments; but it was not until she had taken her fifth cup of tea, that Lucy Cuppledish whispered 'How sweet it is!'"

"The tea?" asked my friend Smith.

"No, sir; the sentiment that accompanied the toast," replied Mr. Tickler; "and the one was as well buttered as the other. She led me to believe that she reciprocated my feelings, and, while she poured out her tea, I poured into her ear my tale of true love. Before we parted, I offered her my arm, to escort her home; and, as she accepted my offer, I then offered her my hand and heart. I had told her that I was a hatter, and an assistant to Mr. Napper. She enquired what wages I had, and I satisfied her on that point, although, she said, that she thought the amount would hardly satisfy her pa. Lucy's pa, I should tell you, gentlemen, was a greengrocer, who was in a not very large way of business in the next street to Mr. Napper's. In the smoke of Cokeford it was not a very easy matter to keep cabbages up to the expected colour; and Lucy's pa had, therefore, many difficulties to contend with. Before I bade her a fond and lingering adieu, I promised to take an early opportunity of confiding to Mr. Cuppledish the story of my love. We parted at his door. Such was the early dawn of my engagement. But 'twixt cup and lip there's many a slip; and—if you will pardon the confusion of metaphors—there was a lion in my path. Little did I think that the lion was to meet me in the shape of the Recreative Roosters."

CHAPTER VII.

The Tickler and the Recreative Roosters.

"The Recreative Roosters!" I exclaimed, as Mr. Tickler paused for a few seconds for the purpose of refreshment. "What ever were they?"

"They were the members of a Club," explained the strolling player, "that held its sittings at a public-house in Cokeford called The Old Cock,' to distinguish it from an upstart public-house in the same street, which had also assumed the 'Cock' for its sign. But, the older public-house had the antiquity of two centuries; and it therefore gave itself the airs that might have been assumed by a person who could boast of a long pedigree; and this was thought something of in a place like Cokeford, where, not a few of the wealthier inhabitants might have had a difficulty in tracing their descent through three generations. He would have been a wise child who knew who was his own great-grandfather, in Cokeford."

"You are a second Tupper, Mr. Tickler," I said.

"'I forgive you the praise,' as said Shakspeare's Olivia," quoted the play-actor. "Sufficient for my story to say, that the ancient hostelry of 'The Cock,' at Cokeford, was held in much estimation by many of the smaller shopkeepers in the town, who were accustomed to meet in its smoke-room for an evening's companionship and social recreation; and, as this particular hostelry was distinctively known as the Old Cock, to distinguish it from the other inn at Cokeford, also bearing the sign of the Cock, so it naturally came to pass that those who frequented its smoke-room should be familiarly distinguished as 'the Old Cocks;' or, 'the jolly old Cocks,' for they were convivial people. But some of the younger and newer frequenters of the smoke-room, disapproved of the name; and, at length, they inaugurated a new club on the old foundation; and, in place of being called 'the Old Cocks' they named themselves 'the Recreative Roosters.' The title was considered to be more to the taste of the times, and indicative of the poetic feeling that would hide a common spade under the designation of an agricultural implement.

"No sooner had the frequenters of the smoke-room of the Old Cock banded themselves into a club, under the name of the Recreative Roosters, than an opposition was started at that other hostelry, which was also distinguished by the sign of the Cock. It also had a smoke-room with its own peculiar set of constant callers in the evening; and, what must these people do, out of the mere spirit of rivalry, but establish their own club under the name of 'the Convivial Chanticleers.' For a time, the town of Cokeford, or, at any rate, an important section of its population, was thrown into a distracted state by the conflicting claims of the two new clubs. There was as much canvassing going on by the agents of the two clubs, as though they were asking for a vote for a representative in Parliament—or, even a member of the Town Council. You could scarcely walk through Cokeford without being taken mysteriously by the button-hole and urged to become a Convivial Chanticleer; and, before you could get away safely from the one tempter, ten to one but you would be besieged by another who besought you to enrol yourself amongst the Recreative Roosters. Some Cokeford folks, when they were thus plagued by the canvassers of the two rival clubs, might have cried 'A plague on both your houses!' for they professed that they could see no difference between 'the Recreative Roosters' and 'the Convivial Chanticleers;' but, that both were much of a muchness. Yet, gentlemen, there was a difference between them."

My friend Smith was heard to murmur, "Strange that there should such difference be, 'Twixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee.'

"Yes;" continued Mr. Tickler, "there was as great a difference as would be found between the partisans of the blue and the yellow; and we, for our part, being members of the club that met at the older hostelry, looked down upon the members of the opposition club as mere upstarts and mushrooms. Instead of recognising them as Convivial Chanticleers, we gave them the nicname of the Dunghill Democrats; and, of course, we looked upon the Recreative Roosters as being the aristocrats and sprung from an older pedigree."

"Why do you say '*we*,' Mr. Tickler?" I asked.

"Because, sir," replied the play-actor, "I had at once united myself to that party, although much pressed to join the opposition. But, Mr. Cuppledish was a leading member of the Recreative Roosters; and the fact that Lucy's pa belonged to the older club gave it the *pas* in my estimation. Influenced, therefore, by my new-born passion for Lucy Cuppledish, I had no hesitation in at once deciding that it was the correct thing for me to be a Recreative Rooster, and that the Convivial Chanticleers were nothing more than Dunghill Democrats. So, I became a Rooster to the backbone. Well, gentlemen, of course we had our own peculiar customs, just as the Odd Fellows and Freemasons have theirs; and, without betraying the secrets of the society, I may divulge them so far as to explain that, at a certain period of our sitting, the greatest gravity had to be preserved. Each member was required, in turn, to say something that was provocative of laughter: but, if any Rooster so much as smiled, he was made to pay a forfeit. In consequence of the efforts of the Chanticleers, the Roosters were making extraordinary exertions to establish their club on a wider and firmer foundation; and, as a step towards this, they were about to elect a new President, who would have to attend the nightly meetings at the Old Cock, and to start and control the peculiar proceedings of the evening. His duty would be not only to watch for those who smiled during that portion of the club's sitting to which I referred, but he would also have to introduce that sitting by a humourous speech, which he would be required to pronounce with judicial gravity.

"Now, my Lucy's pa, Mr. Cuppledish, was a candidate for this post of President; and, when I confided to him the mutual feelings that existed between myself and his daughter, he said that he would consent to our union provided that he gained the appointment for which he was an applicant. The President of the Recreative Roosters was to be paid so much a night for taking the chair, besides having his tobacco and liquors supplied to him *gratis* (or, as Mr. Cuppledish called it, 'gracious,') by the landlord of the Old Cock. Therefore Mr. Cuppledish was looking forward to the appointment as being a valuable addition to the rather slender income he was already making as a greengrocer. We had a great deal of talk together on the subject, and, eventually, he pledged me his word that if he obtained the Presidentship of the Roosters, he would allow Lucy to marry me, as he would then be in a position that would enable him to do something towards furnishing those humble lodgings in which both Lucy and I were agreed that we should be quite content to begin our married life. Love in a cottage was what we should have preferred; but, if we could not attain to that, we had resolved to content ourselves with love in lodgings up a two-pair back. A capital fellow was old Cuppledish, and I was so pleased with my prospects and our mutual arrangements that I could not resist tickling him in the ribs. He considered, however, that by doing so I was making much too free with my future pa-in-law; but I presented to him a bottle of Old Tom, which was his favourite liquor, and he made it up to me over a pipe and glass. Lucy sat by, and encouraged me with her smiles and wiles. I might have basked in them for life had not my peculiar infirmity of ticklemania obtruded itself between me and happiness. Bitterly did I regret the day when I became a Recreative Rooster. But more of this anon!"

The play-actor paused for refreshment.

(To be continued.)

THE RAY OF LIGHT.

[Lines suggested on reading the able article in the *Illustrated Midland News*, of December 25, 1869, entitled "Noonday Night Service in the Cathedral of St. Jonas," by Elihu Burritt.]

I.

No sunbeam ever hath entered there,
Nor gleam of the silvery moon,
Nor aught of light, save the flickering glare
Of the candles at night and noon—
That dimly throw their sickly glow
On the faces begrimed with toil;
That shine like faces of Orient races
Who live on some sun-scorched isle.

II.

No sunbeam ever hath entered there,
For oh! it is dark and deep!
And 'tis hard to breathe the dusty air
That enters the coal-pit steep,
From the light of day so far away,
At the mouth of the deepest mine,
Where fields and flowers and blossom'd bowers
In the light of the Heavens shine.

III.

No sunbeam ever hath entered there,
To cheer the hearts of those
Whose faces, on entering the pit were fair,
But now are as black as sloes;
Yet a ray of light, by far more bright
Than sun, or stars, or moon,
Descended the mine, condescending to shine
On the toilers one afternoon.

IV.

No sunbeam ever hath entered there,
Yet a ray, more bright than the sun;—
And a voice from Heaven went down to declare
The wonders that God had done.
Scattered around, on the cold damp ground,
Eager the toilers listened,
As they sat at the feast—at the words of the priest
Their bright eyes joyously glistened.

V.

No sunbeam ever hath entered there,
To smile on that young boy's brow—
To cheer that old man, wrinkled with care,
Or to tell of a God above.
But a beam of joy went down to the boy,
And told of a land so bright,—
Of a glorious mine of treasures divine,
In the service that Noonday Night.

ENIGEND.

LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

SAFE FOR FOURTEEN YEARS!

Ellen Brown, 45, an unfortunate woman, was indicted at the Middlesex Sessions for stealing a half-sovereign and other moneys, the property of William Gill, from his person. The prosecutor stopped to talk to the prisoner for a moment, when he missed his money. Prisoner ran away, was captured, and given into custody. The jury immediately convicted the prisoner, who was an habitual criminal. The Assistant-Judge senteneed her to be kept in penal servitude for seven years, and be under police supervision for seven years after.

LEICESTERSHIRE POACHERS.

At the Leicester County Police Court, on Thursday, before Major Knight, Joseph Collins, Timothy Furborough, William Gesson, and John Gee, were charged with wounding Job Smith, Samuel Driver, and Abel Read, by attacking them, on December 10, with bludgeons, stones, and flails, at Newton Harcourt, near Leicester. Prosecutors are watchers in the employ of Sir Henry Halford, and were on night duty when they met the prisoners, who were standing near a net. A scuffle took place, resulting in the assault complained of. On behalf of the prisoners, a number of witnesses were called to prove an *alibi*. Gee and Taylor were discharged; the other three being committed for trial at the assizes.

A LONG TERM.

At the Middlesex Sessions, Paul Emanuel, 47, a Frenchman, was indicted for stealing a leather bag and other articles, the property of Cuthbert Knightley Orlebar; stealing a leather bag and other articles, the property of Captain John Henry Blake, of the Heath, Kempsey, Worcester; and for stealing a carpet bag and other articles, the property of Arthur Thomas Betts. Mr. Cooper prosecuted on behalf of the Great Northern Railway Company. Thorogood, one of the officers of the company, followed the prisoner, who took up a carpet bag from a heap of luggage, and, having found out where he resided, he procured assistance and they arrested the prisoner. His room was filled with luggage which had been stolen at different periods. He had been previously convicted; and the Judge said it would be necessary to make a severe example of the prisoner, and sentenced him to ten years' penal servitude.

"HARD LINES."

The Croydon magistrates have just decided a case of considerable importance. Mr. Solomon, the proprietor of the Theatre Hotel, which forms part of the building, and from which there is an entrance to the theatre, was charged with permitting drink to be consumed on his premises during hours prohibited by law, viz: at 1.35 a.m. on Christmas morning. For the defence evidence was adduced to show that on Christmas morning there were about 120 persons present at a private rehearsal of the pantomime. During the night the bar was not open, and the two ladies who were at the bar when the police came in were sitting in the theatre, and complained of cold. Mr. Solomon asked them to take some refreshments, and the other persons who were at the bar were invited in the same way. No money was passed, the ladies having each had a glass of wine, and the gentlemen some bitter ale. The rehearsal was very late, and the people at the bar had not been there five minutes when the police came in. The Bench fined Mr. Solomon £1 and 16s. costs.

BEHIND THE SCENES.

Madame Celeste, whom we have been accustomed to hear of only as a clever actress, whose talents do not fail her in her old age, has appeared in a new character—that of plaintiff in the Birmingham County Court, in an action to recover from Mr. J. C. Smith, theatrical manager, £7. 10s. 9d. on an I.O.U. Some eighteen months ago Mr. Basil Rivers engaged the plaintiff for a week's performance at the Bradford Theatre. That engagement was subsequently taken up by the defendant, the terms being that plaintiff should receive one-third of the gross takings each night except Friday, when she was to receive one-half. The takings, however, were so small that on Thursday the plaintiff's agent, Mr. Pointer, had a conversation with the defendant, when the latter said that, as the takings had been so small and Madame Celeste would receive half the takings on Friday, he would not trouble her to play on Saturday, as he was sure of a good house that night without any additional attraction. Mr. Pointer said that rather than let Madame Celeste go back without playing out the week, in consideration of the short takings, he would agree for her to play for nothing on Saturday. On Saturday evening plaintiff played half through the performance, when she told defendant that she repudiated Pointer's arrangement, and unless she received one-third of the takings she would not complete the performance. The defendant, rather than incur the risk of a disturbance, gave plaintiff an I.O.U. for the amount claimed.—Mr. Rowlands contended that, inasmuch as Pointer was the plaintiff's agent, the arrangement made by him on Thursday was binding on the plaintiff, and that the I.O.U being given by defendant under legal *duress* was not binding on the defendant.—His Honour said that if a man of full age gave an I.O.U. like the one produced, no matter for what reason, he could be sued upon it, and there would therefore be a verdict for the plaintiff.

THE MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER.

The funeral of Hight, the young gamekeeper who was murdered on the 31st ult., on the estate of his employer, the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, at Eriswell, was witnessed by a large number of persons. Various circumstances have been brought to light since the inquest tending to bring the crime home to the two men, Rutterford and Heffer, who were apprehended by the police in the first instance. The prisoners were brought up for examination before the magistrates at Mildenhall on Friday, when evidence was given by a police-officer as to a statement made by the prisoner Heffer, who is much the younger of the two men, and not such a hardened ruffian as the other is known to be. Heffer's statement was to the effect that on the afternoon in question he and Rutherford went into the plantation for the purpose of poaching, and after shooting a pheasant they were looking for another when the deceased came up to them and took hold of Heffer. Rutterford ordered him to desist, saying that if he did not do so he would knock him down, and as Hight did not relinquish his hold he carried out his threat, striking the keeper on the head with the barrels of the gun. The blow knocked him down insensible, and Heffer then begged of his companion not to kill the man. He was about to run away when Rutherford said he would shoot him if he left the spot, and proceeded to take the gun to pieces and knock the still insensible keeper about the head with the barrels with such violence that Heffer says he sickened at the sight and was obliged to turn his head away. Having completed the murder, Rutterford put the deceased's legs over his shoulders and dragged the body to the place where it was found, concealing it by cutting branches from the furze and placing them round it as though growing. Heffer denies having taken any part in the actual murder, and it is believed his evidence will be taken against the other man. The inquiry stands adjourned. His Highness the Maharajah has taken up the prosecution.

EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF A COUGH BY POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED.—"Her Majesty's Gun Boat, "Netley," Wick, North East Coast of Scotland, 7th September, 1868.—Dear Sir,—Having had a most distressing and severe cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and restless days, I was recommended by his Lordship, the Earl of Caithness, to try your most invaluable Balsam of Anniseed, and I can assure you, with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties; and the first small bottle completely cured me; therefore I have the greatest confidence in fully recommending it to the million. Most respectfully yours, W. LINZEL, H.M.G.B. "Netley,"—To Mr. Powell. POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED can be had of all Chemists. In Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Warehouse, 16, Blackfriars Road, London. Ask for "POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED." [431

NOTES ON THE JOURNALS.

It is only worth noting, in illustration of the popular taste for everything notorious, that in Paris they are selling "Pantin" buttons, "Pantin" handkerchiefs, "Pantin" hats, and "Pantin" pipes. "Crime de Pantin" is inscribed on the pipe-stems; on the bowls are the portraits of Madame Kinck and her children; and Tropmann figures with a pickaxe and spade in his hands! We have not yet arrived at such a pitch of degradation in this country; there are symptoms even of improvement in "gallows literature," which once had an enormous sale. Perhaps, when the last dread act of the Pantin tragedy has been played, the Parisians, satiated with "novelty," may turn over a new leaf with the new year, and take a pattern in this matter from "Perfidious Albion."

A word of caution, if not of warning, to colliery proprietors may not be out of place. Two cases have recently occurred in which colliery owners were summoned for neglecting their property, and thereby imperilling the lives of those in their employ. In one instance, the defendant was fined £2 10s. for permitting gas to accumulate in his colliery; in the other case the mitigated fine of 40s. was imposed, the defendant having neglected to give the Inspector of Mines notice of an explosion which had recently taken place, and by which two men were injured. The regulations for preserving the lives of those who toil underground cannot be too strictly laid down, nor too carefully carried out.

Good times are apparently in store for newspaper proprietors. Under the new Telegraphic arrangements, the cost of sending news will be much less, and the intelligence will be better compiled. Until now the rates for news-telegrams have been high, and the matter correspondingly brief. Dissatisfied with the system of news-collection and despatch adopted by the Telegraph Companies, several enterprising newspaper proprietors have long had their news conveyed to them from their own correspondents in London "by special wire:" that is, they paid the Telegraph Company for the sole right of using a wire. This cost about £1,000 a-year in some cases; when the telegraphs are in the hands of the Post Office, a special wire will be obtainable for just half that expenditure. On the other hand it is complained by the members of the Preston Exchange and Newsroom, that the news for which they have been paying £100 a-year will now cost them £421; and the Town Council will be asked to take up the subject. As far as the Press is concerned, the new tariff will be generally advantageous, and the public will reap a corresponding benefit in an extra quantity of news.

A movement is afoot to put a stop to Sunday newspaper selling in London. It is only in the Metropolis that the practice exists of issuing Sunday morning editions of certain sporting and semi-sporting papers. Those journals publish, in their Sunday editions, Saturday night's intelligence, criticisms of new plays forming an important feature. With this exception, the Sunday editions of these weekly papers contain little that is important; and we presume dramatic authors and actors would not die of *ennui* were they compelled to wait till Monday for a notice of the piece in which they are interested. Sunday work is deemed a necessity in the majority of morning newspaper offices both in town and country; certain proprietors, however, object to their staff beginning work for the Monday morning's publication until after twelve o'clock on Sunday night; others are less rigid observers of the Sabbath. In America there is no hiatus in the publication of the papers, which come out on Sundays as on other days. May it be long before we see newspapers published *every day* in the Old Country! By the Act of the 29th of Charles II. "following of your ordinary calling" on the Lord's-day is illegal.

Paris has this week been the scene of another tragedy. Two journalists, M. Victor Noir and De Fonvielle, connected with the *Marseillaise*, in which Prince Bonaparte has been severely criticised, called upon the Prince at the request of M. Grousset, who was anxious to have the Prince "out" for another affair. The accounts vary as to what happened at Prince Bonaparte's. M. de Fonvielle says the Prince struck M. Noir on the face with his hand; then, drawing a revolver from his pocket, fired point blank at M. Noir and mortally wounded him; and then fired twice at M. de Fonvielle. The Prince, writing to the *Figaro*, says "they both came into the room with a threatening air." M. Noir first struck him, and M. de Fonvielle drew a pistol; "I bounded back," continues the Prince, "and fired on the one who had struck me." M. Noir rushed from the house directly he was hit crying "murder," and died almost immediately. Prince Bonaparte is under arrest; and the trial has already begun. The tragic scene has made everybody forget the Pantin murders; nothing is talked about but the assassination of M. Noir.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

At this time of year, when the most "ready writer" on sporting subjects has nothing but coursing and billiards to fall back upon, the entries for the spring handicaps are a great boon. After the heavy losses that the turf sustained last season in the deaths and secessions of some of its most prominent supporters, it is cheering to find that the old standing dishes, the Grand National, City and Suburban, Great Metropolitan, and Chester Cup show, on the whole, no falling-off either in the number or quality of the entries. For the steeplechase we find the well-known names of Alcibiade and Hall Court, the heroes of the great head-and-head finish in '65, again in the list. The former has run for this race every year since then, except '67, and got third on one occasion, and fourth on another; while Hall Court has not once missed the race, and has twice again finished second, though in 1866 he dispensed with the services of his jockey about two miles from home. The irrepressible Fan, who has been sold to Mr. Lawrence for £300, is once more entered; but we should not fancy she will again be made a favourite, unless that fatal third fence is removed for her especial benefit. The Lamb and The Colonel—the '67 and '68 winners—are again down; while we may conclude that "Pearldiver, 12st. 7lbs.," will be at the head of affairs. Tusculanum, Gardener, Moose, Steamboat, The Doctor, Globule, and Brick are about the best known of the remainder, and we notice old Dalby as a fresh candidate for steeplechase honours. The names of 140 horses are down for the City and Suburban, of which the most notable is that of Fripounier, the grandest-looking horse we ever saw. Among the other speedy ones entered for this race are See-saw, Formosa, Miss Dayrell, Vagabond, Queen of Hearts, and Cymbal. The Metropolitan horses are not very grand; but we observe the name of St. Mungo, which looks as if they hoped to be able to train him again. The everlasting Blueskin, winner of this race in 1868, is entered once more, and Morna, Siderolite (whom the public, after the gloomy experience of the Liverpool Cup, will not be so eager to back), Thorwaldsen, Martyrdom, and Queen of Hearts are the cream of the remainder. St. Mungo appears again in the Chester Cup, which Mr. Bennett does not despair of winning for the third time with Dalby. Mr. Hughes's "yearling," Redcap, on whom the late Marquis of Hastings "plunged" so heavily, in '66, will try his luck once more; Knight of the Garter may expect something like 10st.; and Romping Girl, Formosa, See-saw, and Queen of Hearts will not get off too easily.

There is little general or stud news. One or two breeders have been very unfortunate in getting a foal dropped just at the end of December, and thus the youngsters, though only a few days old, rank as yearlings. This unfortunate fate has befallen a half brother to King of Scots, late Katharine Logie colt. Old Surplice appears again as a sire. He was foaled in 1845, and besides being the oldest horse at the stud, is the last link between Lord George Bentinck and the present generation of turfmen. His sire, Touchstone, lived to thirty years of age, and was in use at Eaton to within a short period of his death. We understand that another of those five-shilling volumes by "The Druid," which we all know so well in "Silk and Scarlet," "Scott and Sebright," &c., will appear in a few days. It will be entitled "Saddle and Sirloin," and will treat of northern farm and sporting worthies. It will be a complete epitome of all the crack breeds of cattle and sheep, with the celebrated breeders of the past and present; and through the whole will run a strong thread of racing, hunting, coursing, wrestling, &c., as each great spot of renown is reached. The first volume takes us as far as Lincoln and Shrewsbury, and the remainder of England will be treated of in another book. Mr. Hall has sustained a severe loss in the death of his horse Breech-loader, late Brigadier, whom he killed with the Holderness a few days ago. He purchased him from Mr. John Booth, who had won a large number of prizes with him, for three hundred guineas. He was a somewhat clumsy, awkward-looking horse, and was not at all liked at Beverley, where he formed one of the six that Mr. Hall showed there.

The gigantic Border Union (Longtown) Meeting was by no means a successful or pleasant affair, as the weather was wretched, and hares very scarce, owing to some hundreds having been shot in a *battue* a few days previously. The Netherby Cup was divided between Baffler, by Saul—Belle of Hayes, who won the Douglas Cup at the Scottish National in the Spring, and Cavalier, by Cauld Kail—Lady Stormont. Fire Brigade, Fleuron, and Marionette were each beaten in their first course, while the second round proved fatal to Sandridge, and Bendimere was drawn in favour of Bacchanal, who went down before Cavalier in his next essay. The third round of the Tenants' Purse witnessed the defeat of Pretender, who was beaten easily by Blairgowrie, and eventually the stake was shared by Bessy Bell, by Fusilier—Black Bess, and Chivalry, an own sister to Cavalier. Owing to a sprained ankle, Wilkinson was unable to officiate as slipper, and his place was filled by "Sandy," well known with Dr. Grant's and the Carlisle otter hounds, who, considering his lack of experience, performed very well. At Kenilworth "fur" was at very scarce article, and those hares which were found kept getting away into the woods. The whole strength of the company were employed for an hour in beating for a hare for the final course of one of the stakes, and when one was at length found the slipper lost nerve, and slipped the dogs right on to its back, when it immediately doubled into the woods again. Patent was in great force at this meeting, as Cyprian and Protector, the winner and runner-up for the Stoneleigh Cup, Refraction, who divided the Kenilworth Stakes with the Drummer, and Welsh Lady, who secured half the County Cup, were all by him.

The only important billiard match of last week—bar "entertainments"—was that between Harry Evans and Alfred Hughes, which the former, as might have been expected, won very easily; for Hughes, though an improving player, cannot yet be placed on a par with Evans. Bennett's challenge to play anyone in the world, "spot-hazard barred," was soon taken up, and the two Roberts' and Cook will try conclusions with him; but we fancy he will be a little too good for any of them at the "all round" game.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

There is some talk of a Selenological Society, the aim of which shall be to provide funds for completing a telescopic survey of the moon, which was commenced some few years ago under the patronage of the British Association, but from which this body cut off the supplies at a late meeting. The projectors of the scheme, which was to culminate in the production of a gigantic map, tried subscriptions from private sources; but we presume these have failed also. The apathy of astronomers in this matter may arise from the fact that a first-rate map of the moon already exists.

A fact of considerable interest to students of vegetable physiology was announced at last week's sitting of the French Academy. It was to the effect that the grains of chlorophyl, as the green colouring-matter of leaves is called, change their position under the influence of light. The grains are contained in minute cells, and in the dark they have one constant position in the cell, but in the light they move to another, returning to the former when the light is removed: they have, as it were, day and night locations. Bright artificial light starts them as well as sunlight. It would seem as if these vegetable atoms were endowed with perception, and came forth from their nocturnal haunts to drink nourishment from the light.

From France also comes the report of an interesting discovery, made by M. Treve, an officer of the Imperial Marine, upon the effect of magnetism on the coloration of electric light. When a Geissler's tube, glowing with the passage of a current through its vapourous contents, is placed between the poles of a powerful magnet the colour of the light changes in a remarkable manner. In a tube containing hydrogen the light is ordinarily violet, blue, and red, but under the magnetic influence it changes entirely to white. An oxygen tube emits white light, which when magnetized changes to red. Other electrically illuminated gases and vapours similarly alter their tints. The magnetism here varies the rate of vibration of the luminiferous molecules, and change of rate of vibration means change of colour. This is merely an announcement *pour prendre date:* the subject is to be followed up with the avidity it deserves.

Vesuvine is the name of a new dye that ladies may look out for; it is another of the beauteous members of the aniline family. The colours it will yield are yellows of all tints, from bright golden, through deep orange to rich brown. Silks, wools, and cottons will take it.

Everybody who has to use mineral oils knows that there is an Act of Parliament regulating their sale and prescribing a method whereby the explosion point of any sample of oil is to be ascertained: the Act fixing 100 degrees as the minimum temperature at which paraffine offered for sale is to give off inflammable vapour. The regulation test consists in heating the oil in a water-cased vessel, by a spirit lamp underneath, till upon a taper being held over it a slight flash occurs, which flash is an incipient explosion of the mixture of air and heated vapour rising from the fluid. A thermometer is placed in the oil and it ought not to indicate a less temperature than a hundred degrees at the time the flash takes place: if it does stand lower it shows that the sample is too volatile for safe domestic use. Now Dr. Paul, a London chemist, points out that this test is made under conditions the reverse of those which obtain in petroleum lamp-burning. In the latter case the oil is enclosed in a chamber instead of being open to the air, and in consequence the confined vapour is far more liable to explode violently than when it is freely exposed to the atmosphere as the Act directs. Moreover, the rate at which the oil is heated makes a difference in the temperature of its flashing point, it may be to the extent of five degrees. Dr. Paul sums up by declaring the parliamentary test to be totally useless in some respects, and worse than useless for all the purposes of the Petroleum Act, besides rendering this Act and its application a possible source of serious inconvenience to those engaged in the mineral oil trade. Ample need exists for a revision of the law.

An American company established in Chicago advertises a new builder's material which is no more nor no less than paper, though it is thickened and pressed till it is about in the condition of what we know as "mill-board." The vaunted uses are manifold, and all advantageous. In wooden houses it is to be placed under the outer boards; in brick buildings it is to be fixed on the interior walls instead of plastering; in any kind of house it is to be laid beneath the floors to exclude damp and cold. Tar is employed to render it damp-proof, and a pressure of hundreds of tons to consolidate it. Verminous pests will not get through it; and, since paper is an excellent non-conductor of heat, it is a shield for warmth and cold. Puffs apart, it is no doubt a very useful material, but they who require such need hardly go to America for it.

Another American item relates to fires in flour mills. Numerous cases have been recorded in which bran or grain dust has fired almost like a highly inflammable gas and burnt down grinding mills. A chamber clouded with floating particles of flour or "middlings" has flashed into flame when a candle was carried into it. Mill-dust finding its way in quantity to the fires of the driving engines has ignited like weak gunpowder and filled the building with flame. What can be the cause of this action? Is vegetable dust so highly combustible, or does it give forth any inflammable gas? This is hardly likely: but the facts are so well authenticated and so numerous that the phenomenon invites investigation.

A Boy Shot by his Brother.—A melancholy gun accident happened at Wolverhampton on Friday. The son of Mr. Samuel Loveridge, one of the leading manufacturers in that borough and a magistrate, was out shooting small birds with his brothers and some companions on a farm about a mile from his home, and was handing a loaded double-barrelled gun across a hedge to his elder brother, when the piece went off, and the charge lodged in his left shoulder. The lad, who is only twelve years old, was soon removed from the field, and medical help being obtained the limb was amputated. There are hopes of his ultimate recovery.

THE GOSSIP.

It is said that the *Morning Star* is to reappear.

Newcastle-on-Tyne is to have a new weekly paper.

Several new papers have appeared with the new year.

Daniel Defoe is to have a monument over his grave in Bunhill Fields.

Her deposed Majesty, Isabella, is writing a novel of which herself is the heroine.

The *Figaro* states that the Emperor never gives less than 500 francs for a box at any of the theatres.

"The Bohemian Girl" has been produced at the Théâtre Lyrique.

The rumour that there was to be a new London daily paper in the spring is discredited.

Cardinal Antonelli is said to be the proprietor of the Hotel di Roma, in Rome.

Miss Emily Faithfull, editor of the *Victoria Magazine*, is seriously ill.

The principal editors of Rochefort's new paper, the *Marseillaise*, are Rochefort, Raspail, and Lissagaray.

Miss Kellogg was offered 14,000 dollars in gold to sing fourteen nights at the Viceroy of Egypt's Opera House.

At a recent meeting of the Chicago city government, Lydia Thompson received one vote for gauger, and Pauline Markham one for fish inspector.

It was supposed that Mr. Tom Taylor was the London Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*. Mr. Tom Taylor denies it.

The total yearly circulation of London daily and weekly papers alone is in round numbers two hundred millions of copies!

The *Gaulois* offers two bottles of champagne to every one who will subscribe to it for the next six months.

The Nawab Nizam of Bengal, the young Princes and suite, were present the other night at the Victoria Theatre.

Some important improvements in book-folding and card-printing machines have been made by Messrs. Louis Simon and Son, of London and Nottingham.

The ballet is well paid in America. The well-known Lauri Family (four in number) have just signed an engagement for six months at £95 a week.

We are sorry to hear of the retirement of Col. Boxer, R.A., from the office of Superintendent of the Royal Laboratories.

The *Court Register* is the title of a pretty little fashionable newspaper. It is printed on a pink toned paper. No. 1 appeared on the first of this month.

It is said that the proprietors of the *Daily News* gave £800 for the interest of the defunct *Morning Star*.

Mr. C. P. Stafford, "the first professional shorthand writer sent to India," has just died at Kurrachee. He was on the *Bombay Times*.

Spots on the sun of enormous magnitude are just now to be seen. Two of the spots are just large enough to receive a dozen earths as large as the earth upon which we dwell.

The *Architect* hears that a painting by Rubens, representing a "Descent from the Cross," has just been discovered in the church of Elenas. It was brought from Germany in 1650 by Count de Loewenhaupt.

The manufacture of autographs seems to be increasing on a large scale in Paris. Purchasers should be careful with regard to the names of Beranger, Rossini, Meyerbeer, and Rachel.

The *Athenæum* has increased its size of paper and type, and is altogether considerably improved in style and matter, the double effect, we presume, of its new rival the *Academy*, and the retirement from the editorial chair of Mr. Hepworth Dixon.

Miss Julia Mathews, the English "Grand Duchess," and Mr. Wilford Morgan are singing at Covent Garden, in Offenbach's operetta "Lieschen and Fritzchen." Miss Mathews, as we have before stated, plays the leading part in the pantomime.

The sale of the periodicals of the "Jack Sheppard" class is about 200,000 weekly, there being 20 publications, with an average circulation of 10,000 each. Three years ago there were 28 of these publications, and the aggregate sale was larger by 80,000.

Old frequenters of the Surrey Theatre will regret to hear of the death of Mrs. R. Honnor, the melodramatic actress. She was essentially the heroine of the domestic drama. She expired at the house of her husband, Mr. Frederick Morton, stage manager of Charing Cross Theatre.

The *Spectator* says the *Daily News* is the only morning journal which has been and is plainly Liberal *on principle*. The *Times* always reflects the actual opinion of the hour among the ruling classes, and the *Telegraph* "has seemed to adopt the same theory for a somewhat more numerous and less refined class."

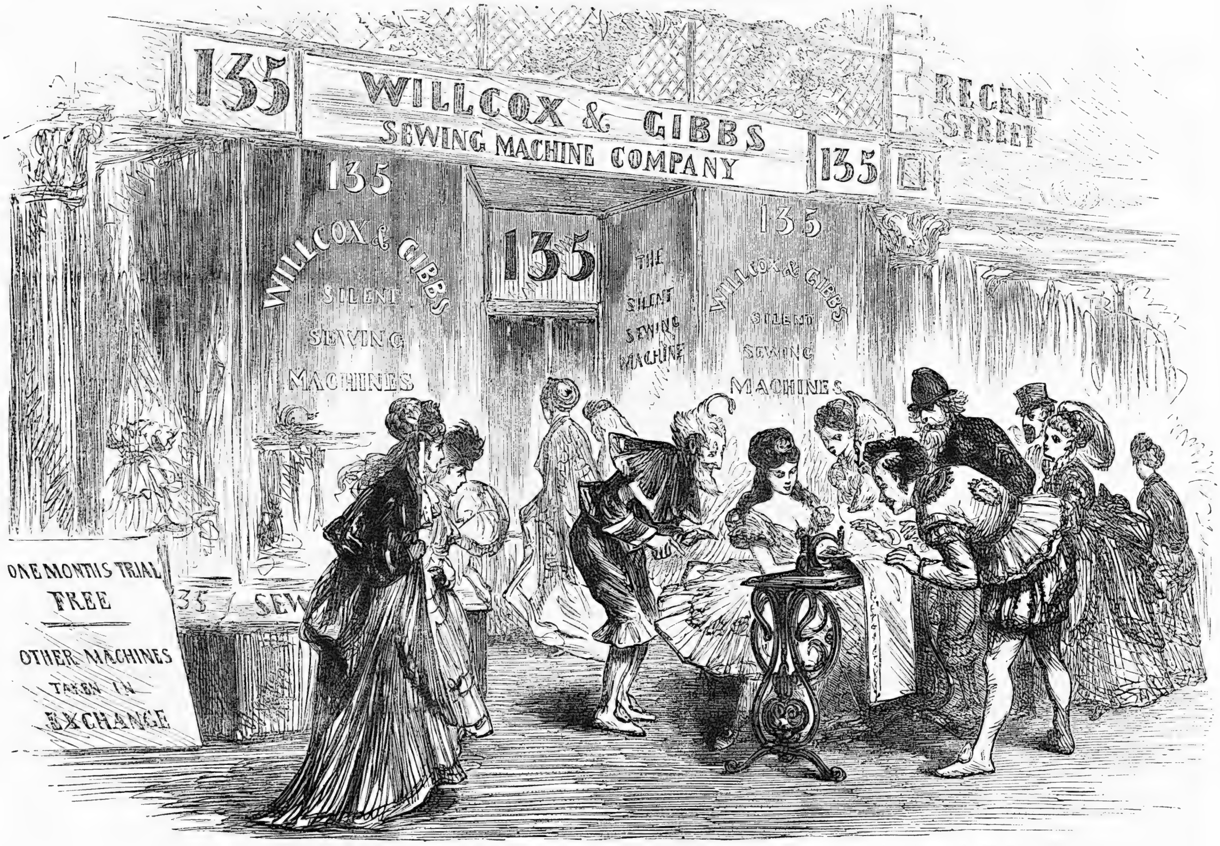
A boy, named Thomson, aged twelve, has created a sensation at the Conservatoire of Liege, by his extraordinary violin-playing of Vieuxtemp's difficult "Fantasia Appassionata." The critics describe his tone, power, and command of the instrument as something wonderful.—*Musical Standard.*

Mr. John Proctor, the artist who drew the political cartoons for *Will-o'-the-Wisp* during the last general election, has ceased his connection with that paper. Mr. Proctor writes: "I am astonished to read anything about my lucrative position on that paper. I left it simply because I could not get my money, and the proprietors are still in my debt."

Mr. W. S. Gilbert's new burlesque "The Princess" (the subject taken from Tennyson's poem) was produced with great completeness at the Olympic Theatre on Saturday night, under the direction of Mrs. W. H. Liston. The piece is in blank verse, and is well spoken of. The scenery includes a marvellous ruin, crossed by a practical bridge.

Mdlle. Tietjens has been fulfilling an extraordinary successful engagement at Hamburgh and in the German cities. At Hamburgh the stall-tickets sold for £20. After the performance there was a flambeaux procession through the streets in her honour; and on the following day an address was presented by the authorities to the popular prima donna. These incidents show some appreciation of art. We might wait long enough for such enthusiasm in England.

Five Colliers Killed.—An appalling accident happened at No. 1 Voilheiw pit, the property of the Dowlais Iron Company, on Saturday. In the evening the colliers were ascending from the workings. Some, in their impatience, rushed to the shaft which was not used for the ascent of men, but for drawing coal. This shaft had, however, been in use all the day in hauling up coal, and had given no evidence of defectiveness. At the time stated five men, among whom was the manager, resorted to the coal shaft, which was the lesser of the two, and, having given the signal, were unfortunately drawn up, but when they had reached to within 27 yards of the top of the shaft, the rope suddenly broke, and the poor fellows were hurled back to the bottom, and were killed instantaneously. The cause of the accident is not yet given, but it is stated that the rope was cut by coming in contact with a broken "sheave."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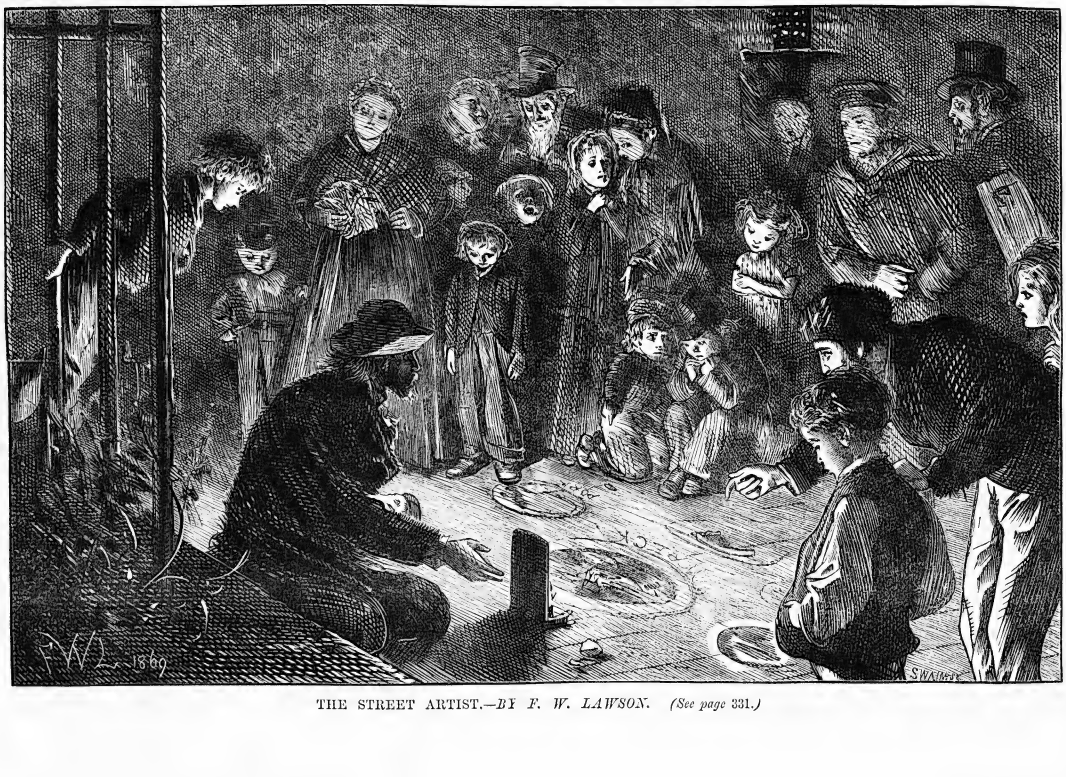
SCENE FROM THE PANTOMIME OF "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" AT DRURY LANE THEATRE. *(See page 326.)*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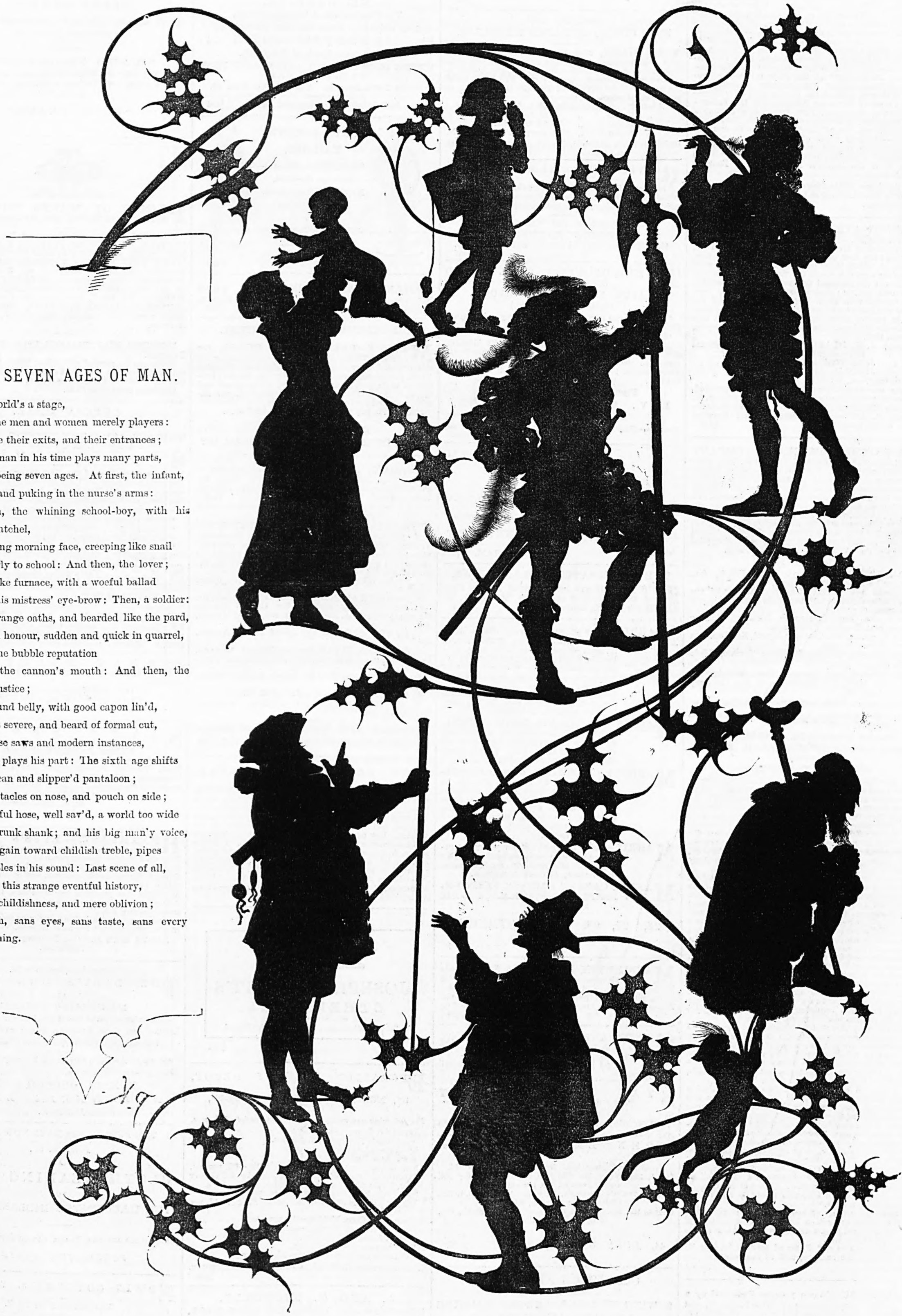
THE STREET ARTIST.—*BY F. W. LAWSON.* *(See page 331.)*



THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN.

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits, and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms:
And then, the whining school-boy, with his satchel,
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school: And then, the lover;
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eye-brow: Then, a soldier:
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth: And then, the justice;
In fair round belly, with good capon lin'd,
With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances,
And so he plays his part: The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon;
With spectacles on nose, and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound: Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness, and mere oblivion;
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing.

THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN.—*BY PAUL KONEWKA.* *(See page 327,)* *Auction Sale of the Library of His Excellency the Marquis d'Astorga, Comte d'Altamira, Duc de Sesa, January 24, 1870, in Paris.*

M. BACHELIN, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, will SELL by AUCTION, JANUARY 24, the most interesting LIBRARY of His Excellency the MARQUIS D'ASTORGA, Comte d'Altamira, Duc de Sesa, Grand d'Espagne, including a Commentaire sur l'Apocalypse, Manuscript on vellum, in folio, of the Twelfth Century, with 110 Miniatures, one of the most splendid manuscripts known of the time—A Romance of Chivalry, 'La Conquête de Troie,' Manuscript of the Fourteenth Century, on vellum, with 100 Miniatures—A Livre d'Heures of French origin, from the Fifteenth Century, with 55 most beautiful Miniatures—Different Manuscripts of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries—An Extraordinary Collection of Livres d'Heures, printed, the greater part on vellum—Large Choice of Books on America and the Indies—Mathematics, Astrology, Fine Arts—Large Historical and Theological Collections—The Church Fathers, in the best editions—Great number of Books in fine rich bindings—Different works of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries, printed on vellum: for instance, the Institutes of Justinian, printed at Venice, by J. Le Rouge, from the Emperor Ferdinand the Fourth's Library, &c.

The Catalogue will be forwarded on application at M. Bachelin's Branch House in London, 25, Garrick Street, Covent Garden. [500

BUENOS AYRES GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE.—Translation.—We, the undersigned, at the request of Messrs. Jas. C. Thompson and Co., certify that the Iron Safes of Messrs. Chubb and Son, London, of which these gentlemen are agents, were exposed for several hours to the fire that took place in the offices of the National Government on the evening of the 26th instant; that in our presence they were easily opened with their respective keys: that the moneys and important documents they contained were found in perfect order; and that these safes are now in use in the National Treasury Office.—Buenos Ayres, 31st July, 1867.

(Signeo) J. M. DRAGO, Treasurer of the National Government.
JOSE TOMAS ROJO.
JUAN M. ALVAREZ.

A true copy.—A. M. Bell.

A large assortment of these SAFES may be inspected, and lists of prices obtained, at CHUBB and SON'S, 57, St. Paul's Churchyard, London; 68, Cross-street, Manchester; 28, Lord-street, Liverpool; and Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton. [417

THE PARCELS CONVEYANCE COMPANY (Limited).—Incorporated under the Companies' Acts, 1862 and 1867, and Registered.—Capital £20,000 (with power to increase the amount with the consent of the shareholders), in 10,000 shares of £2 each. 10s. per share to be paid on application, 10s. on allotment, and the remainder as required by calls not exceeding 10s. per share, at intervals of not less than three months. Where no allotment is made, the amount deposited will be returned in full, and in the case of partial allotment the balance of the deposit will be retained, and applied towards the amount payable on such allotment.

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ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The parcels-carrying trade, in London and its suburbs, already large and profitable, is rapidly growing. From the extended facilities afforded by various railways, the class of persons who attend business in the City, and live with their families a short distance from it, becomes every year more numerous. A demand, therefore, arises for a proportionate increase in the means for conveying parcels between the districts of the metropolis and its outskirts. There is ample room, and even need, for the operations of a company established to carry parcels cheaply, carefully, and expeditiously.

Fair estimates of probable business, and important promises of custom which have been received from many quarters, warrant an expectation of substantial profits. In fact, the company has already received offers of support from numerous influential firms and individuals engaged in conducting extensive businesses of various descriptions, and there is no doubt but that the connection which has been secured will enable the operations of the company to be commenced and carried on under the most favourable conditions, and lead to a large and remunerative business.

A careful estimate of the capital expenditure, and also of the returns which are likely to be realised at the commencement of the company's operations, is given in the prospectus, and shows a profit of 23 per cent. per annum; but, even assuming one half only (11½ per cent.), the returns would be most satisfactory.

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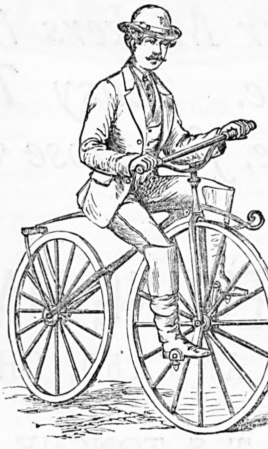

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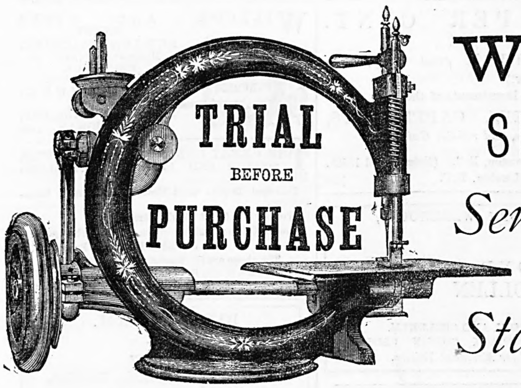

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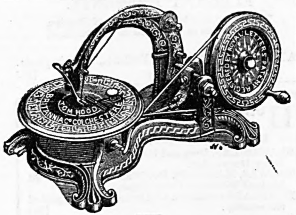

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